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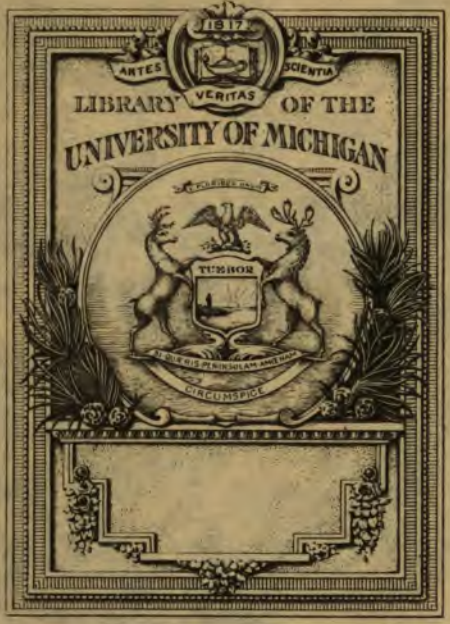

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John Dunn

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Johnson Brown.

1829.

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Shackleton, Richard

Memoirs and Letters

OF

RICHARD AND ELIZABETH SHACKLETON,

LATE OF

BALLITORE, IRELAND;

COMPILED BY THEIR DAUGHTER,

MARY LEADBEATER.

INCLUDING A CONCISE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, AND SOME LETTERS, OF HER GRANDFATHER, ABRAHAM SHACKLETON.

"My boast is not that I deduce my birth
From loins enthroned, and rulers of the earth;
But higher far my proud pretensions rise,
The child of parents pass'd into the skies."

COWPER.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HARVEY AND DARTON,
GRACECHURCH-STREET.

1822.

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PREFACE.

THAT feeling inherent in our nature, which loves to remember and to be remembered, having, in many instances, tended to the improvement as well as entertainment of those who prefer the narrative dictated by truth to works of imagination; and the taste of the present day, more than of some of former ages, seeming to favour this judicious choice; the compiler has been encouraged in a persuasion, that, instead of confining to their own descendants, these memoirs and sentiments of an exemplary couple, they may be usefully introduced into more public view, and the memory thus preserved, of those virtues which graced the sphere allotted to them.

A considerable number of letters, or extracts from letters, addressed by the late Richard Shackleton to some of his numerous friends, have already been submitted to the public eye, principally collected by his worthy, much-valued contemporary, John Kendall; by which his talents for epistolary converse have been evinced, in a way that it is hoped will favourably dispose many readers to receive the present volume.

The few letters of Elizabeth Shackleton here

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offered, though not the product of what may be accounted shining endowments, are so fraught with virtuous sentiments and just distinctions, as may sufficiently warrant their publication. Nor can it be doubted that the developement of the character of their revered father, the elder Abraham Shackleton, will prove equally interesting and instructive.

Various anecdotes and allusions, respecting other individuals, amongst relations, family connexions, and friends, are also interspersed, as being too immediately connected with the principal subjects to admit of exclusion.

The circumstances of the prominent characters in this little work, being closely interwoven, the editor has generally adopted a chronological order, considering that the advantage resulting from this, will be paramount to any inconvenience which may arise from a broken narrative.

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ERRATA.

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Page 12, line 2 from the bottom, *for* days *read* love.
Page 15, line 7 in the note, *dele* who.
Page 26, line 16, *for* on *read* an.
Page 33, line 10 from the bottom, *for* over for us good *read* over us for good.
Page 51, line 14, *for* friends *read* friend.
Page 51, line 19, *for* 1759 *read* 1769.
Page 82, line 2 from the bottom, *for* precure *read* procure.
Page 88, line 14, *for* had good time *read* had a good time.

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MEMOIRS AND LETTERS, &c.

CHAPTER I.

Birth of Richard Shackleton.—Some account of his parents.—Circumstances attendant on Richard Shackleton's youth.—His marriage.—Extracts from letters.—Decease of his wife.

Richard Shackleton was born in Ballitore, on the 9th of the 10th month, 1726. His grandfather, whose name he bore, was a native of Yorkshire, where he married, in the year 1683, Sarah Briggs. Of their six children, Abraham, born in 1696, was the youngest. His mother died when he was six years of age, his father two years afterwards. Though deprived so early of religious parents, the impression made on him, by their careful education, was not in vain. He used frequently to mention the tender concern of his pious father, who, following him to his bed-side, was wont, on leaving him to his repose, awfully to recommend him to seek the Divine blessing. And that blessing did remarkably attend him during the course of his life; for whilst as yet very young, and exposed to manifold dangers, he was enabled to preserve the tenderness and innocence which constitute the happiness of childhood; and often, retiring from his companions, he mused in solitude on the love of his Maker. In his

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youth, he underwent great exercise and conflicts; but persevering in the strait path of duty, and yielding obedience to the Divine monitor, through every stage of life the same protection was extended, as the same watchful care to seek after it was maintained.

His bodily frame not being robust, after having made trial of other means of gaining a livelihood, he resigned them, and cultivated his natural taste for literature. Though he was twenty years of age when he began to learn the Latin language, yet, with genius and application united, he speedily became a good classical scholar, and even wrote pure and elegant Latin. His acquirements, his diligence, and still more his character, induced some of the most respectable families of the Society of Friends in Ireland, (of which religious body he was himself a member,) to encourage him to come into this country, and undertake the tuition of their children. He first engaged in the employment of a private teacher; and in great simplicity of heart, and awful fear, discharged his important trust, greatly to the satisfaction of his employers. Having, before his removal, been a teacher in the school of David Hall, of Skipton, in Yorkshire, he there became acquainted with Margaret Wilkinson, first cousin to David Hall, an inmate in his family, and daughter of Richard Wilkinson, of Knowlbank, in Yorkshire. She was pleasing in person and manners, cheerful, of a sweet temper, and endowed with good sense; but what attracted and confirmed Abraham Shackleton's affection to her, was the excellence of her humble and pious spirit. He loved her with a true love, and, in a few years, returned to England, solicited, and obtained her hand. Those friends who had had trial of his abilities as a private teacher, and who saw the advantages accruing to the youth, from such an example as his, were glad to find he had determined to settle in Ireland, and to open a boarding-school. They, probably, sug-

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gested the idea to him, for he was of a diffident disposition. Ballitore seemed to be a suitable place for this purpose, a retired village in the county of Kildare, twenty-eight miles south of Dublin, the river Griese, a pleasant stream, running through the valley in which the village stands, and contributing to its salubrity. It was a situation, also, which gratified Abraham Shackleton's inclination for the country, and his love of agriculture and planting. Hither, then, he brought his beloved Margaret. Here they passed their peaceful, pious lives; here shone the steady lustre of their bright example; and here they laid down their heads in a good old age. But their virtues left behind a sweet odour, when their places knew them no more; and their memories are handed down with respect and love, from one generation to another.

The boarding-school was opened on the 1st of the 3d month, 1726, and succeeded beyond the humble hopes of its conductors; so that not only those of their own society, and of the middle rank, but many persons of considerable note, and of various denominations, placed their children under their care; several of whom, afterwards, filled conspicuous stations in life; and many not only retained a grateful and affectionate respect for the memory of their preceptor, but good-will and regard for the Society of Friends, on his account; remembering his extraordinary diligence and care in their tuition, his fatherly oversight of them, and also the living lesson of uprightness, temperance, gravity, and humility, which he taught by his example.

And there is ground to believe, that the principles of the people called Quakers were better understood, and that many illiberal prejudices against them were removed, by means of Ballitore School. Amongst the scholars of Abraham Shackleton, one of the most distinguished for

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early attainments in literature, was Edmund Burke, who, with Garrett, and Richard, his brother, was placed under his care, in the year 1741. Edmund, being then about eleven years of age, manifested uncommon genius, with qualities which shelter that "painful pre-eminence" from those envious blasts, which annoy even when they cannot injure; for he was unassuming, affable, and modest. He and Richard Shackleton, the son of Abraham, pursued their studies together. The minds of both were strongly bent to literary acquirements; both were endowed with a classical taste, solid judgment, and keen perceptions; and with similar dispositions, cheerful, affectionate, and benevolent.

Between these kindred minds a friendship was formed, which continued through life, notwithstanding the different spheres in which they moved. When they met afterwards, Edmund Burke delighted to converse with the friend of his youth, on subjects that recalled their juvenile days. In private life, he was distinguished by the practice of the domestic and social virtues, and by exemplary moral conduct. His manners and conversation were engaging and instructive; clothed with a simplicity which softened the brilliancy of his talents, and made him even more beloved than admired.

Michael Kearney was another of Abraham Shackleton's pupils, a native of Dublin; a person of acknowledged worth and learning, and as remarkable for his modesty as for his acquirements. At the age of eighty, he gave proof, by a few lines addressed to one of the family, of the permanency of that friendship, which, springing from the soil of innocent and cultivated minds, produces blossoms and fruits, to gladden the heart in youth and in age. "A renewal," says he, "however slight, of a correspondence with Ballitore, excited a most affecting pulsation in my heart: it attracted my attention to old times, when

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I was accustomed to receive letters from your father, to whom I am indebted for much instruction in what is laudable and excellent." Speaking of the pleasure with which he read a description of Ballitore in verse, he adds, "It bestowed on me a momentary youth. I recollected the haunts of my boyhood with inexpressible pleasure, and retraced events that had occurred on every spot. The cowslips of the Mill-field were not forgotten, and many instructive conversations with your father started into my mind." It was not the recollection of hours spent with his friend in idleness, folly, or mischievous frolics, which was presented to his memory; but through the long retrospect of much more than half a century, this venerable man could pleasantly contemplate their past studies and recreations. The cultivation of taste and science is favourable to the preservation of purity in conduct and sentiment; and though there are lamentable instances of fine talents being laid waste, and, instead of raising a goodly and useful structure, affording, by their ruin, a shelter to the beasts of prey and birds of night; yet the generality of the dissipated and profligate, appear to be those who have neglected or despised the improvement of their own abilities, and endeavoured to depreciate those intellectual powers and accomplishments, which they were either unwilling or unable to comprehend; who, in the words of Gay,

> "O'erlook with scorn all virtuous arts;
> For vice is fitted to their parts."

When Richard Shackleton was but five years old, his heart experienced the touches of Divine love; and he sometimes withdrew to a retired spot, where he poured out his soul in prayer, and was permitted to approach Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me." Often

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did he look back upon this time, and the scene of these early aspirations, which seemed hallowed in his view. It was a precious period of his life when he was led to enter into covenant with his Maker—when he walked out alone with his Bible, and poured out his prayers and his tears, being favoured with that heavenly feeling which surpasses every other enjoyment; and this tenderness continued, with very little interruption, to operate on his mind till the sixteenth year of his age.

On his arriving at this critical period of life, the levity incident to youth, and his own natural vivacity, drew him, in degree, from that watchfulness enjoined by the highest authority, and on which our safety and happiness depend; and though preserved within the bounds of morality, the religious sensibility experienced in early life was weakened. This lapse, though it had been long recovered, he regretted, when about to close his exemplary life. He was very diligent in seeking after improvement in literary knowledge; and, while yet a child, was able to assist his father. For this purpose he spent some time in Dublin, attending lectures at the college, and learning the Hebrew language. The pious care exercised over him, when absent from his parents, will appear by the following extracts from letters written to him by his father. "Keep thy mind as quiet as possible, so that thou mayst have benefit of this little tour. I desire thou mayst have thy eye to Him that hath preserved, in some degree, him that writeth, and is his chiefest joy. Next to that, my joy is that mine may walk acceptably before Him. Durable riches, I know, and honours, are in his right hand, which He dispenses impartially, in his own fit time." 1744. "We are very desirous of seeing thee at home, for several reasons; and yet very loath to interrupt thee in that in which thou proposest to thyself an advantage, or, at least, a satis-

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faction; for thou mayst assure thyself, whilst thou continuest to eye the best things, thou art and wilt be near to me."

"My dear son, that gracious hand that dispenses divine favours liberally, hath not been wanting to my mind, since thou left us, and thou hast been nearly remembered by me; and my desires are, that thou mayst often participate of those riches and treasures that add no sorrow, but give the soul dominion over all lower enjoyments. This sifting, winnowing, purging, cleansing hand, that would make room for itself—that would leave nothing but the pure, weighty grain—bring every thought, word, and action to judgment; may it be attended upon, and, when retired and withdrawn, patiently waited for. Experience tells us here, too, that the prodigal must know want." 1748.

"Thou hast been pretty much in my mind since we parted, and I have often remembered that portion of Scripture: 'The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold.' Various are the probations that are permitted to fall to our share, in this vale of tears. I cannot think but, if it be not our own fault, they may turn to our lasting advantage, in purging away the dross, the tin, and the reprobate silver. The more deep the trials, the more severe and heavy the refining, reforming hand presses on our souls; the more high they may rise in acceptance, and have the more sensible enjoyments; and then may the soul bow, in the depth of humility, to the root, and know its dependance on that from whence living nourishment springs. Surely, the all-wise God hath, for a wise and blessed end, dispensed day and night to our souls, as well as to the outward creation, to engage and enamour our souls to love Him." 1748.

Richard Shackleton very early in life became attached to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Henry and Deborah

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Fuller*; and having his parents' entire approbation of his choice, he applied for her hand about the twenty-second year of his age. The state of his mind at that time, is best expressed in his own words, as he related it to a dear friend. "I received a *kind* of refusal, which I took; my mind being awakened in a most extraordinary manner, from the time of my application to that period, and possessed with doubt and dread, so that I feared, if we went together, the divine blessing would not crown our union. In this season I sought solitary places to weep in, and pour out my tears to the Lord. Many wondered that I took the disappointment so to heart, supposing my dejection to proceed from that. I let them suppose what they would, and being favoured to keep inward, my covenants were renewed. In about six months from this time, I found a liberty to renew my suit."

They were married the 2d of 2d month, 1749, and settled in a pleasant dwelling, in the village near their parents, who looked forward with joyful hope to future prospects for their children, whom they beheld walking in the path which leads to happiness.

About this time, a little band, young in years, but increasing in the experience of those things which belong to peace, became closely united. Amongst these, Mary Peisley, Samuel Neale, Elizabeth Pike, Richard Shackleton and his wife, and Elizabeth Carleton, often met, and were a strength and encouragement to each other. Their union is expressed thus, in a letter from

---

* Deborah Fuller was the daughter of John Barcroft, one of the proprietors of the lands of Ballitore, and Elizabeth, his wife, who was an acceptable minister. She died in 1740, having survived her husband several years. Near the close of life, she overflowed in sweet counsel to her children, and testified of her early experience of the Lord's goodness, which had been continued through life.

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Richard Shackleton to Samuel Neale: "My cry was to-day, dear friend! for us who are young, who are known by one another, to have good desires begotten in us for the blessed cause, that we might be preserved, and plentifully filled with divine wisdom, of which I saw a great necessity, that the Lord would take us, being children, and teach us himself; and that we might be drawn into near unity with one another." Samuel Neale, who had been forgiven much, loved much; and having been obedient to the heavenly vision, became a vessel of honour, replenished with good, and pouring it forth for the refreshment of others. He was one, who, remembering the trials which attend youth, compassionated them; and in advanced life, his winning affability towards young persons, his fatherly love and care, his heart and house open to receive them, made a deep impression on their minds, from which many received lasting advantage.

The following extracts from letters written in the year 1752, instructively depict the state of R. Shackleton's mind at this period.

"7th of 4th Month.

"Had I kept, as I believe thou dost, to my first love, and not suffered the wisdom of the fallen nature to blind and deafen, and, in appearance, almost totally quench in me the second Adam, which is a quickening spirit, I should not now be without true wisdom, in a captious, deceitful world. May the harms of others teach thee to beware. Prize, O prize, the jewel which I believe thou art possessed of. It is indeed the pearl of price. I should rather possess the least portion of it, than all the wisdom of this world. Knowledge, indeed, puffeth up; but charity, which is this pure love, edifieth. Take William Penn's advice to his children: 'Part with all for it, but part not with it for all the world.'"

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"14th of 6th Month.

"I have had a pretty deal of Mary Peisly's company since my last. She proves, by her conversation, that text, "The words of the wise are as nails fastened in a sure place." As there is no company so agreeable to me as that of such dear instruments, I find myself not out of danger in indulging myself in it. My mind is too apt to be drawn out in these opportunities, from a still, quiet frame, into a flutter and commotion; and the affections of the creature to steal gradually into the room of the pure love of the Creator, who is ever jealous of his just right: and this wounds the life, and defeats the true satisfaction and benefit which might accrue from such conversation; and instead of parting from our friends with a sweet savour, we make that parting doubly uneasy, by losing the company of the invisible as well as visible friend."

"25th of 9th Month.

"Oh! how I love uprightness and plain dealing; a heart which loves its friends sincerely; that will not harbour and conceal a self-pleasing, envious, injurious thought of its friend, nor bear to hear it uttered by another without rebuke. May the virtues of integrity and simplicity, and single and honest-heartedness, be ours, for they are truly Christian. Yea, may it please Divine wisdom more and more to purge out the sour leaven, and leaven our hearts with the leaven of the kingdom; even the leaven of meekness, long suffering, and tenderness of spirit: so shall we be disciples indeed; contrite, humble, and faithful followers of the Lamb, whithersoever he leadeth. May the Lord

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preserve us as innocent, tender, and babe-like children before him, hungering to be fed by him, and growing up as goodly plants under his hand. Oh! this child-like nature: when shall I get enough into it? It is only as a measure of this is effected in us, that we can cry, 'Abba, Father.'

"Though, as thou sayest, 'things look bad,' let us look well at home; and as we are incapable, in a great degree, of doing any thing to make matters better, let us not make them worse, and the breach wider in the enmity, by saying or doing any thing in our own unregenerated wills, and natural heat of temper, which may hurt instead of furthering others. For the enemy works in us with the engines and tools of our corrupt nature, which he finds there: and so crafty is the serpent, that he will seem to employ these weapons *for* the good cause, *against* himself; whereas, he works in a mystery *for* himself, *against* the cause, by raising heats, and divisions, and hardness of heart between brethren. But let us endeavour, as much as in us lies, to live peaceably with all men, and if we see a brother offend in breaking any branch of our Christian testimony, and by the fire of pure zeal warming and cleansing our own hearts, we find that the truth (as will often be the case) calls for a witness to it, let us wait to be guided by the spirit of love and meekness, to bear our innocent, faithful testimony; and if it be not received, stand in the counsel of the same spirit, and let not that get up which would render evil for evil, but overcome evil with good."

"14th of 10th Month.

"I have, I confess, been favoured at times, since my last, with the washing of water to repentance and regeneration; not through any instrumental help, but through the powerful operation of the spirit of judgment and of burn-

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ing, in my solid retirement in and before my family. We are too apt, after such washing times, to run like sheep, skipping and leaping from the washpool, and so are in danger of being bespattered with mire again, instead of being weightily concerned that a sense of that power may rest upon our spirits, which is alone truly comfortable, and can keep us solid, steady, and fruitful. For as the sheep is washed, in order that it may be shorn; so are we washed and cleansed, that we may 'bring forth fruit meet for Him who has dressed.' My desires are strong in my measure, that we, several of us, who are known by one another, and known to our heavenly Father to have, at times, living desires raised in us for the glory of God and the eternal happiness of ourselves, and one of another; and sometimes a further concern that our backsliding brethren may no more revolt, but return and live: my desires are that we may come up nobly and boldly in his cause, and be absolutely (I see no other way to be of service) resigned to the will and disposal of the great Lord of the harvest, dedicating freely and cheerfully, as our forefathers did, all we have, internal and external, to his service."

The following is an extract from the only letter which has been found, from Richard Shackleton to his wife. They were not often separated: they probably hoped to pass a long life together, and therefore might not have been so careful to preserve such memorials of affection as he afterwards became; and he often regretted his not having one letter by him, of the few he had received from the dear object of his youthful days, who was tenderly remembered by him through the whole of his succeeding life.

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"Dublin, 6th of 11th Month, 1752.

"My dear Wife,

* * * "I trust it is the Lord, the God of our fathers and forefathers, even the Lord who I believe was with us in joining us together in his holy ordinance; he has appeared in my heart at this season, both in public and private, as a refiner with fire, and as a fuller with soap, to the cleansing and purifying my heart, and fitting it for a temple meet for him to dwell in. May thou and I, my dear wife, patiently abide the day and way of his coming, that in due season we may witness our sins blotted out, and the times of refreshment from before his presence; that so, having desired him that he may be the stay of our youth, we may experience him (if length of days be continued to us) to be the staff of our age.

"Thy tender, affectionate husband,

"Richard Shackleton."

In the spring of 1754, an afflictive dispensation was allotted to Richard Shackleton. On the ninth day after the birth of his son Henry, he was deprived, by death, of his beloved wife, and left the sorrowful father of four children; viz. Deborah, Margaret, Abraham, and Henry, (the latter died young.) The exquisite distress which he endured at this separation, was proportionate to the sweetness of their union: he had lost the object of his early affections, the endeared companion with whom he had entered into those family duties, which, during the short space of time they had lived together, she had worthily fulfilled. He had lost her when, from youth and health, they might naturally have looked forward to many happy years: but the great Disposer of events, in his inscrutable wisdom, ordered otherwise.

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R. S. to ———

"Ballitore, 2d of 1st Month, 1755.

"I have the comfort to tell thee, without boasting, that I think I grow a little in a sense that death itself cannot separate and divide the union of those spirits whom the Lord hath joined and preserved near himself; and this has been my greatest relief in some late sorrowing seasons, for the loss of my very dear and inwardly-beloved companion, whose spirit I am at times nearly united unto, when in the depth of affliction; and whose better part I fervently pray to rejoin, when my trials, my baptisms, my provings, and solitary sorrows, which are many, shall be over.

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 29th of 6th Month, 1755.

"Outward trials are suffered to come to prove us, whether they will dislocate our minds from that which ought to be their centre. If they effect this, the accuser of the brethren, who obtained permission to put forth his blasting hand upon the outward substance of upright Job, has gained so much of his point; but if such storms only drive us nearer to the shelter of that hand which is full of blessing, then they have a good effect.

'Who sees not Providence all good and wise,
Alike in what he gives and what denies?'—Pope.

"Richard Shackleton."

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CHAPTER II.

Memoirs of Elizabeth Carleton's early life—Extracts from Letters.—R. S.'s second marriage.—Some account of the establishment at Ballitore.

ELIZABETH CARLETON* has been already mentioned, as forming one of the little company of young persons united by the bonds of Christian friendship; and as the circumstances of her early life are fraught with instruction, some narration of them will, it is believed, prove interesting to the reader.

She was born the 10th of 10th Month, 1726. When young she discovered a strong inclination for the fine arts; had a musical ear, and a fine voice; and indulged in dress as far as she could. Her person was agreeable, her manners pleasing, and her company acceptable to the gay and thoughtless; though a native delicacy, amounting to timidity, and a sense of decorum, prevented her from taking the latitude she might otherwise have been induced to take. She excelled in skill and ingenuity with her needle,

* Elizabeth Carleton was descended from a good stock: her paternal grandfather, Thomas Carleton, of Cumberland, was united to the society of Friends by convincement, became a public preacher; and suffered much, both in property and health, by a long imprisonment on account of his testimony against tithes. He moved afterwards to Ireland, where several of his children were born, and where he died in 1684. Her maternal grandfather, George Rooke, also a native of Cumberland, who joined Friends when a youth, and was a minister amongst them sixty-six years. His only daughter, Rachel, married Joshua, the youngest son of Thomas Carleton, in the year 1710.

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and was preparing to work a picture for an exhibition, when the ministry of a friend, on a religious visit in Ireland, was made instrumental to discover to her the vanity of the things in which she had delighted. The account of this period of her life is thus related by herself.

"As long as I can remember, I think I was of a diffident, cowardly disposition, fearful of doing what I knew was wrong, lest I should be punished; yet, when very young, was fond of play, and at times earned reproof. As I advanced in age, the follies and pleasures of youth allured my mind; and company, though of our own society, with whom I was intimate, strengthened the growth of the wrong seed in my heart: so that I delighted much in many things which, though perhaps not accounted evil by the people, yet were very hurtful, and in danger of destroying the innocent life, which ought to be cherished with great care; such as light airy company, music, and singing; and a great thirst for reading such books as were entertaining to the natural part, with specious titles for promoting virtue and rendering vice odious; yet, like subtle poison, gradually tending to the destruction of the root of virtue and innocence in the mind, and creating a dislike to reading the scriptures, and such other writings as would strengthen and encourage us to live a self-denying life, according to the precepts of our blessed Lord.

"These practices of mine were not with the knowledge or approbation of my dear mother and grandfather, the only parents I had left; but concealed from them, and on that account attended with fear and remorse, knowing well that I could not hide from the penetrating eye of Him who beholds the secrets of all hearts. This sense caused a dread of future misery for such conduct, as well as fear of being discovered by my friends to be what I did not appear to be; which, though enticed to join with the temptations when they presented, yet was a character I much

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disliked. And the sincerity of my heart, I believe, pleaded with Almighty goodness to have an eye to me, and not to cast me off, but mercifully and wonderfully to preserve me from greater evils, of which I was in much danger; and also to awaken me to a sense of my perilous situation: so that when I would retire to bed at night for sleep, his terrors, lest I should be deprived of life in that state, followed me. I feared to think of it, and would often resolve to live more circumspectly; but fresh temptations often falling in my way, and not keeping up the inward watch as I ought, my condition, like that of many others, was to be deplored. But He, whose compassion faileth not, was pleased to visit my soul in a particular manner, in a public meeting in Meath Street, Dublin; I think on the 3d of 9th month, (old style,) 1747, about the twenty-first year of my age, through the living testimony of a faithful servant, Richard Hipsley, from Bristol.

"My mind had been awakened, in the same meeting, by the testimony of some other Friend, and I thought how pleasing it would be, if such ministers of the gospel were to continue with us; when Richard Hipsley stood up, and mentioned, as well as I remember, the disciples being for building three tabernacles, one for Moses, one for Elias, and one for Christ; but these servants were removed, Christ remained, and the voice uttered: '*This* is my beloved Son, hear ye him.' I cannot recollect further of his testimony, but those words had such an effect on me, that my heart seemed changed, tender, and broken—a heart of flesh instead of a stony one; my desires seemed new, a new heaven and a new earth, in which some degree of righteousness was about to dwell. The cross then, in this day of power, which before I could not willingly take up, became easier, and the burden lighter; the practices before mentioned I dare not join with; often being retired, humbled, and broken as it were to pieces. Strength was

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administered to withstand temptations, and my love to truth and the friends of it grew strong; and the love of such seemed much toward me, so that I wondered that they should take such notice of me, who seemed to myself entirely unworthy.

"I found that my safety consisted in watchfulness to know, and humble resolution to do, what I thought was required of me, though much in the cross to my nature; divine goodness strengthening me to bear reproaches, persuasions, and mockings of my old companions, who, to their own miserable loss, withstood the offers of heavenly love extended to them; and notwithstanding I might expect such treatment, I dare not shun the place, but appear amongst them in a very different manner from what I was used to do, both in my conduct and dress. Of myself I could not have acted thus, but by endeavouring to keep inward and watchful over my words and behaviour, begging to be preserved from bringing dishonour on that Holy One whom I was now above all desirous to serve; and he was pleased, in great condescension, to preserve me in simplicity, and fear of offending him. I dare not stay from any meeting which it was in my power to attend, and often called to see or inquire for such friends as I heard were indisposed, even if not much or at all acquainted with them before, which caused many to have an affectionate regard for me; and made way to drop hints sometimes to my friends, which I was afraid to omit, lest I should be one of those that were not faithful in small things, and so become weaker, and not able to pursue the path which my eyes were opened to see was that of acceptance.

"As other things were become new, so was my desire for reading. Now the Scriptures, our friends' sufferings, and other writings edifying and useful I delighted in, and forsook those which I knew were hurtful to my mind. Retirement and waiting upon the Lord, to renew my strength

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in him, I found was good and necessary. Visiting, or being in much company, I declined, lest thereby I should be drawn away from off my watch. Religious friends I loved to be with, and such were kind and tender towards me; and under the sense of the notice that many worthy ministers visiting this nation took of me, my mind was often bowed in humble admiration, that such a poor, weak creature as I, should be so favoured; and it was often hard to part with such, and cost me many tears; and after they were gone, divers have written me encouraging letters.

"Thus was I helped, through the kindness of Him who affords strength to those that are sensible of their own weakness, and entire insufficiency to preserve themselves; fulfilling his old promise, of 'carrying his lambs as in his arms.'

"Though my mind was so bent to practise what I believed to be my duty in religion, I saw also that it was my duty to be diligent and industrious in outward business, helping to make it easier to my aged mother and weakly sister. I have had often to admire how I was enabled, when left alone with a servant, (my mother and sister in the country, on account of my sister's health,) to carry on our little business, attend meetings constantly, and keep the house in so frugal a manner that little would be expended, and my kind neighbours and friends well pleased, when they called to see me, to find me at home and properly employed.

"Thus I went on for some years, endeavouring to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly; being sensible that a warfare still must be maintained, and a greater victory must be achieved over my own passions and natural propensities, and that best wisdom was necessary to guide me through life. As my experience could not be much, therefore I often begged for it. In course of time, some degree

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of zeal for the promotion of truth seemed kindled in me, and a desire to attend some of the general meetings, which was scarcely in my power, from my situation; but in a while, my dear friend Elizabeth Pike was raised up to be a kind and faithful help-meet to me, and we took many journeys together to general meetings, often under difficulties.

"We frequently met with discouragement in our meetings for discipline, by such as were settled in the old way, which they did not seem to think necessary to alter, though strongly recommended to do so, by worthy servants sent from far to visit us; but our minds being preserved in patience and humble dependence on Almighty help, in time way was made to have things brought into better order, which my worthy friend, Elizabeth Gill, endeavoured to promote. She was a tender, loving friend, and willing to encourage the youth who were desirous to be what the Lord would have them to be."

To this truly pious and amiable friend, Elizabeth Carleton, Richard Shackleton made proposals of marriage. The two situations which she most wished to avoid, that of a step-mother and mistress of a boarding-school, were involved in the serious subject for consideration laid before her, which her friendship for R. S. and her conviction of the excellence of his character, could scarcely have outweighed; but her sense of duty was added to them, and in accepting his offer she became one of the best of step-mothers, and one of the best of matrons to a public school. Her sphere of usefulness was enlarged, and she needed not affliction to keep her humble, which, in the sincerity of her heart, she had desired, if necessary; for the responsibility of her station forcibly impressed the need of that constant watchfulness which so remarkably characterized her words and actions.

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The difficulties which she anticipated, vanished or were made easy to her; and she found, in the worth and affection of her excellent companion, those blessings which constitute the happiness of married life.

R. S. TO HIS FATHER.

"Dublin, 1st of 11th Month, 1755.

"DEAR FATHER,

"The meeting began this day for the nation. I have not much to say about it. It looks as if we must labour hard for our bread, through the course of the meetings: perhaps it may be best so, for what is hardly gotten is oftentimes carefully kept. And, indeed, I think I have seen great loss accrue to some of honourable rank, in this respect; that when good Providence, in unmerited condescension, has favoured them with the bedewings of his goodness, in order for leavening and seasoning their spirits for his service, (which is so much wanting,) they have, for want of knowing a settlement, and abiding in the life, let these favours pass transiently over, and not be productive of the fruit intended by them. And with sorrow it may be too often said of them: 'Their goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.'

"Thy affectionate son,

"RICHARD SHACKLETON."

Richard Shackleton and Elizabeth Carleton were married the 17th of 10th Month, 1755.

R. S. TO HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW, RACHEL CARLETON.

"Ballitore, 16th of 12th Month, 1755.

* * * It would give me pleasure, and add much to the satisfaction I daily enjoy in thy daughter, to know

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that her loss sits with tolerable ease upon you. I should rather call it her absence, not her loss; for I hope Providence will favour us with meeting divers times together again, in this land of uncertainty; and they are not lost, who are found in the places which Infinite Wisdom has ordered them in, which I hope is the case with thy dear, valuable child: and I doubt not but this consideration makes this separation easier to be borne by thee. And I sincerely desire it may be made up to you by the most solid comfort, which unites together in spirit those that are absent in body, and is the crown of the aged as well as the youth. That this may be our chiefest care to seek after, whether old or young, is the sincere desire of

"Thy dutiful and affectionate son,

"RICHARD SHACKLETON."

In 1759, Elizabeth Shackleton's mother, and her sister Deborah, settled in Ballitore; and, ultimately, all Richard Shackleton's daughters were placed under the care of Deborah Carleton. Few were better qualified for the care of young persons, than this amiable and excellent woman: she won their hearts and gained their confidence, made every proper allowance for them, and granted them every proper indulgence.

Richard Shackleton's three eldest children loved his second wife with sincere affection, and her conduct towards them deserved it. Her own two daughters were treated, by their sisters and brother, with that affectionate tenderness which young, generous hearts, are wont to show those who look up to them with love; and the care of their mother and aunt was found necessary, to protect them from that excessive indulgence which these young persons were disposed to give them. Thus was R. S. made thankful to Him who setteth the solitary in families, for having permitted him to form another happy matrimonial con-

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nexion. He, pursuing his onward path, and seeking first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness, found all things necessary added—all things necessary for those whose desires are moderate; and this is likely to be the case with such as are concerned to keep on their watch: they may hope to see what to do and what to leave undone, even in their temporal affairs.

Richard and Elizabeth Shackleton, in the pursuit of the arduous undertaking, the instruction and care of youth, were imbued with that reverential fear, which is a blessing and a safeguard to those who abide under it. The advantage of their example extending far beyond their sphere in life, was felt throughout their neighbourhood, so that many of the higher ranks desired to cultivate a familiar intercourse with a man distinguished by his talents and learning, and a woman of so benevolent a character. But while they received such marks of kindness with respectful courtesy, they were not drawn by them from their allotted situation. Their time and thoughts were claimed by their duties, and they were the more respected for preserving this line of conduct. Industrious and prudent, yet casting their care upon Providence, they felt the shackles of the world hang loose about them. They were eminently useful members of religious society, with clean hands and discerning spirits, being well qualified to take an active part in conducting its discipline. Their duties to the children under their care were conscientiously fulfilled, of which the grateful love that their pupils retained for them is a convincing proof. Several of those who, while they were under their mistress's eye, had thought her too strict, loved her the better afterwards, even for this; and many remembered, and we may hope profited by, the tender admonitions which she was wont to impart, particularly at the time of their leaving school, to enter into an untried world.

When the varied business of the day was over, it was a

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comely sight to see the parlour supper-table surrounded by the master, mistress, their children, the young men who were parlour-boarders, the ushers, and the housekeeper, all on equal footing; all equally at liberty to express their sentiments, or gain instruction and pleasure from those expressed by others. Without losing the respect due to their own characters and situation as heads of the establishment, careful and observant of the conduct of all these, R. and E. S. treated them with a kind familiarity, which attached them to home, and precluded the desire of seeking more enjoyment elsewhere, which is too often the effect of repulsive manners. This social meal seemed to bind all more closely together: the heads of the house saw the elder branches of their family collected, and they separated with mutual good will.

To one who once belonged to this table, but who was then the father of a family, and advanced in life, the grandson of R. S. was introduced. He was politely received by the old gentleman, but his name once mentioned, all ceremony vanished: "Shackleton! you are the grandson of my old master! I loved him next to my own father!" then grasping both the hands of the young man, he permitted his heart to overflow in affectionate remembrance of departed worth. He afterwards thus wrote to one of the family: "It will be only with existence that I shall lose recollection of the numerous acts of kindness I have experienced from your father. He was my inestimable preceptor: he was my indulgent friend. I acknowledge my debt of gratitude, and shall ever be most happy in evincing it, and how highly I revere and respect his memory."

The large establishment, and consequent plentiful table, caused the indigent to resort to R. S.'s house. Perhaps they were relieved too indiscriminately; but there was much care taken to inspect the wants of the modest poor: employment given to some, the sick supplied with medicine,

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and those who had known better days considered with delicate attention. Old neighbours were taken into the family, occupations found for them suited to their age and weakness, their infirmities alleviated, their fretfulness endured, and their close of life rendered as comfortable as was in the power of their benefactors. One of these died in the house of the younger Abraham Shackleton, having, it was supposed, attained his hundredth year; and another, who had served the three generations as steward, also died in his house at the age of eighty. Thus, in a comparatively humble walk of life, were generous and charitable dispositions unostentatiously exerted.

Richard Shackleton was blessed with a cheerful, contented mind, conducive to his own happiness, and the happiness of all around him. He was prepared to adopt the language of the poet:

> "Ten thousand thousand precious gifts,
> My daily thanks employ;
> Nor is the least a cheerful heart,
> That tastes those gifts with joy."—Addison.

The fault of his temper was quickness, not violence; but this was soon subjected to his judgment, and if he thought he had wounded any one thereby, he was ready to acknowledge it, with a benign humility which melted the heart, and disposed it to follow so touching an example. From his conversation young persons derived much instruction and delight; and such was his solicitude for their eternal welfare, that he might almost be designated, "the apostle of the youth." He seldom or ever left home, for any considerable length of time, without paying farewell visits to his neighbours; nor returned without greeting them at their own habitations. After a day industriously spent, it was his practice to retire every evening to his garden or chamber; his countenance, when he returned to his

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family, bearing the impress of divine meditation. And before retiring to rest, he read a portion of scripture. If he was under difficulty or perplexity, the first thoughts which occurred to him on awaking in the morning, were generally those to which he took heed, by which he was often freed from what had annoyed him. He had learned to cast his care on Divine Providence, in matters of less as well as greater moment. He was a kind and considerate master, being careful to avoid giving servants unnecessary trouble. He rose early both in summer and winter. Neither he nor his wife were in the station of minister; but in meetings for discipline, and in families, they were often concerned to deliver wise counsel, in words few and pertinent; and R. S. sometimes spoke in public meetings, but, like his father, in the character of an elder. When he returned to our national meeting, on account of his attendance at the yearly meeting of London, his words were delivered with such humility, sweetness, and brokenness, that the influence under which he moved, seemed to overspread the assembly.

He was freely given up to these services by his true helpmate, whose exertions to promote the good of all, united with his own. This pious woman assiduously endeavoured to alleviate the sufferings of body or of mind, which came under her notice; and, as has been alluded to before, her nature, as well as her religion, prompted her to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction; and in fulfilling these duties, she experienced that feeling so excellently described by the poet:

> "The heart which bleeds for others' woes,
> Shall feel each selfish sorrow less;
> The breast which happiness bestows,
> Reflected happiness shall bless."—CARTWRIGHT.

Being enabled to overcome evil with good, she was sincerely beloved, and seemed to be made a blessing to some

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who had at one time been prejudiced against her. With a solid and improved understanding, her simplicity was such, that it might appear not difficult for the artful to impose upon her; yet it not unfrequently happens, that the single-hearted and artless, more readily penetrate into the characters and motives of others, than those do who are busy in concealing their own. Her grave manners tended to inspire awe in young persons; but they soon found that these were softened by such kindness of heart, that love overcame every other feeling towards her. Sedulously attentive to the improvement of his pupils, Richard Shackleton's time was fully occupied with this employment, and he resigned to his wife the management of his farm; not that he was himself averse to, or incapable of conducting it; nor did it appear that any other person entertained an opinion, which he often expressed respecting himself, that he was fit for *nothing* but a *schoolmaster;* but he knew his wife's capability and inclination for these concerns, and her willingness to receive advice from those who were experienced in agricultural affairs. She was, indeed, remarkable for this; and readily waved her own plans, to make trial of what others recommended, though it often happened that her former practice proved to be the best.

She was slow and deliberate in her movements and decisions. She not only provided for her household, conbining therein economy with plenty, and attended to the various business of the farm, but superintended the building of several houses; permitting nothing to prevent her fulfilling her duties to her aged mothers, to her children, and to the other branches of her family: the regular distribution of her time, and the love of order, enabling her to accomplish what few of greater activity, without these aids, find themselves capable of.

She was an admirer of good poetry, but still feeling the

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limit which had restrained her youthful imagination, she justly feared the danger of transgressing it for herself and others: thus restricted, the enjoyment, so far as it was permitted, was without a sting.

Her husband, also, scrupulously endeavoured to keep his genius for literature in subjection to higher objects: if he had turned the bent of his mind to it, he probably might have excelled in poetry. Those who have no taste of this kind themselves, are in danger of mistaking their motives, when they condemn those who have. None who are sensible of the beauties of literature can despise them, however they may feel themselves circumscribed in the indulgence of their inclination. Of a winter's evening, Elizabeth Shackleton frequently brought those scholars who belonged to her own religious society, into the parlour, to read her the journals of Friends, as she sat at work. She was also pleased at hearing *history* read to her, generally by the young students who were parlour-boarders. This employment was the more agreeable and instructive, because she had an excellent memory and sound judgment. She entered into the characters of those held up to view, often supplied the thread of the narration, when it had escaped the young reader, and took a lively interest in the public or private events which were narrated. She persuaded herself that Caligula's reason was impaired by the fever which had seized him before he was raised to the imperial dignity, and therefore imputed to *insanity*, the apparent change of character, and the subsequent horrors of his reign. She lamented and blamed the timidity of Seneca, which deterred him from curbing the headstrong passions of Nero; believing, that had he been faithful in the discharge of his duty, his pupil might have been awakened to a sense of his enormities, and the preceptor been longer spared to a degenerate age. It was natural that this fault should appear evident to one who was herself religiously con-

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cerned to avoid it; for she believed it was required of her, in many instances, to admonish those whose improper words or actions came under her notice. She spoke not *of* those offenders; she spoke *to* them; though in doing thus she took up *the cross*, and often for a time felt it heavy; but whatever the rank, or how little soever acquainted with the person, she must fulfil her apprehended duty, to obtain that peace, which, flowing as a river, amply rewarded such sacrifices. It need scarcely be added, that in these performances, her own will being laid aside, she was instructed so to speak, as seldom, if ever, to offend; and we cannot calculate how much good may have been produced by those alms (if they may be so termed) given in secret.

The manner in which Elizabeth Shackleton was strengthened to perform her duties, is thus described by herself.

"Being sensible of my own inability, my dependance was on Divine help, which I had often experienced in times of need. I was favoured with understanding and knowledge for the business, beyond what I could have thought; my careful, industrious husband assisting in many things belonging to my department as well as his own; so that we were reciprocally helpful one to the other, sympathizing and bearing burdens one for the other, in our arduous calling; and both being near of an age, and favoured, for many years, with a good degree of health, our success in endeavouring to do our duty was an encouragement, and our minds were preserved in a grateful sense of the gracious dealings of the Lord to us. And notwithstanding our close and constant engagements, so that we seldom left home on other occasions, we found it but our reasonable duty to attend the meetings for discipline to which we belonged, as well as quarterly and half-yearly meetings; also to show, by an exemplary life, the efficacy of the principles of truth we professed to be led by, amongst

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the numerous acquaintance we had; being employed by many who knew little or nothing of those principles."

An instance of this occurred, when a gentlewoman, on leaving her son, requested of Richard Shackleton that he might be permitted to read the Bible. He, amazed, expressed his surprise that she should place her child where such a request was necessary, assuring her that the Bible was daily read in the family. She asked his excuse, telling him that she understood that George Fox's Journal was substituted instead of it, by those of his profession. At another time, the son of a man of fortune was brought to his school by his mother, who, till she came to Ballitore, had never seen one of the people called Quakers. Elizabeth Shackleton queried why she brought her son among a people who were such strangers to her. She answered, that she had heard a good character of them, although they differed from the Church of England concerning baptism and the supper. This lad spent most of his childhood, and some of his youth, at Ballitore, perhaps the happiest part of his life; for when he lay in an American prison, dying of wounds received in a battle, in which the British army (wherein he was an officer) was defeated, and the prison was so crowded as to aggravate the pangs of death, "If I were at Ballitore I should not be thus neglected," were almost the last words he uttered.

One of the pupils, an only child, died of the small-pox; and Elizabeth Shackleton lost her own child, then also an only one, about the same time, of the same distemper. "This," said she, "proved a trial to me, which I hope was of service; believing, that whatever afflictions are permitted to attend us, are for our good, if we make a right use of them, and more and more cast our care on Him who careth for his humble dependant children."

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CHAP. III.

A further account of Abraham Shackleton.—Death of his wife.—Various Letters.—Illness and death of Abraham Shackleton.

We shall now return to Abraham Shackleton. After his release from the duties which he had faithfully performed in an arduous occupation, he found himself more at liberty for the service of that religious society of which he was a member. Besides a constant, regular attendance of the particular and general meetings to which he more immediately belonged, he paid frequent visits, in company with friends, to meetings in several parts of this nation; and several times attended the yearly meeting in London, even in the time of old age, and when natural strength failed, yet his spiritual as well as intellectual faculties witnessed no decay. He did not appear in the character of a minister; yet, many times, in religious meetings, in the families of his friends, and among his own household, his words would drop from him with such sweetness and energy, as carried with them an evidence that they were brought up from the well of life and salvation. Beloved and respected by all who knew him, for his unblemished life and useful labours, he was to the last preserved in deep humility and diffidence; preferring others to himself, walking among his brethren with all lowliness and meekness; and exercising no authority in the church, but in the fresh sense of the power of an endless life. Edifying and instructive, indeed, were his words; but still more so his life and manners. In the virtue of temperance he was an eminent pattern; being remarkably abstemious in meat, drink,

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and sleep; and was solicitous to enforce the practice of this virtue. Solid and exemplary in his own deportment, he was grieved when he observed levity of conduct or conversation in others. He greatly enjoyed hearing any thing good or commendable of his fellow-creatures, and uniformly discouraged all detraction; closely attending to, and practising the counsel of his Great Master, who enjoined that we should in all things do to men as we would that they should do to us. He delighted in retirement, and for that purpose frequently walked alone in the fields. Even when he was in company, the interior travail of his soul was visible in his countenance. Thus he continued to devote the evening, as he did the morning of his day, to the service of Him who giveth liberally, and upbraideth not; and when from home on a religious account, his mind was still tenderly turned towards those left behind, as appears by the following fragments.

In the year 1760, Abraham Shackleton attended the yearly meeting in London, and addressed his son during its sittings, from which the following is an extract.

A. S. TO HIS SON.

"London, 2d of 6th Month, 1760.

* * * "There really seems a good hand at work, to gather and bring things into better order. Fifty-eight friends offered themselves willingly, to visit the monthly and quarterly meetings in the nation; and I hope they will have the hand of the Lord upon them, to work for Him. I thought my heart was a little like Deborah's, when the narrow path was not sufficiently occupied, and those under the profession of truth had taken to by-ways, that my very heart rejoiced, and was with the willing in Israel, that offered themselves to the work." * * *

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To the memorable visit paid to the meetings for discipline in the nation of Ireland, the following letter refers.

A. S. TO HIS SON.

"Cooladine, 18th of 9th Month, 1762.

* * * "The friends from England are, Samuel Fothergill, Jonathan Raines, Isaac Wilson, and William Rathbone; some of whom signified they had been drawn from the nearest connexions in life, by the good Lord and Master, to visit us, in this poor desolate island. The Master of our assemblies is with them, and the concern for our welfare, in the very best respect, is great. He is with them, even the shout of the Divine Majesty of heaven; he is yet working and seeking by his instruments, and his good spirit immediately also, to gather us near to himself. Oh! that the children of men would keep steadily, deep to the root, that they might bring forth right fruit, to the honour of Him whose care for us is exceeding great! As far as I could ever feel, none shuts a door in His house for nought, so rich a rewarder is he: his peace, my dearest child, is enough. Be careful never to be drawn forth into many unnecessary words; may the right book of conscience be kept open by the finger of Him that sees and watches perpetually over for us good; may all our words and thoughts be brought thereto, that we may live to Him that is everlastingly worthy.

"The public meeting comfortably ended. Isaac Wilson, and then Samuel Fothergill, laid before the meeting their concern; and those that were not of the society, I mean those that did not profess with us, were, in a prudent, tender manner, desired to withdraw. And all that professed, though not in strict unity, were desired to stay. Then, the men and women keeping their seats, the clerk

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was directed to read the eleven queries, audibly and distinctly. The overseers, in each particular meeting, gave a distinct, explicit, and particularly clear answer thereto. The friends, in the opening of truth, spoke excellently thereto. Words fitly spoken, arising from the unmixed life, are, I think, compared to apples of gold set in pictures of silver; the expression was more than verified. I do not expect to live to see another extraordinary visit of this nature, and I heartily wish it may have the much-desired effect.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS FATHER.

"Ballitore, 21st of 9th Month, 1762.

"DEAR FATHER,

"We received thine, dated at Cooladine, and are glad that thy report of this extraordinary visit tallies with what we have already heard of that service. It is also a pleasure, and perhaps will be a profit to us, that thou art yoked along with them. Thy letter to my wife, from Kilnock, was particularly agreeable. I have many times thought, of late, of that king in Israel, whose heart so rejoiced in the testimony of his God, that he forgot the man and the king, and publicly exposed himself; appearing with the outward, visible, and accepted signs of a priest unto God. And who were they who despised him for it? Such as had not an eye open to see the beauty and dignity of the sacred function; which was not less glorious, but more so, than royal majesty. But who are they whom the king will delight thus to honour with proclaiming his name and truth, and make the happy instruments

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of the salvation of others, and of their own souls? Those who neither seek honour to themselves, nor shun shame.

"I am, with true respect,

"Thy dutiful and affectionate son,

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS FATHER,

Then in the north of Ireland, with other Friends.

"Ballitore, 20th of 2d Month, 1763.

* * * "Last post brought us letters from cousin Elizabeth Dale. She writes very sensibly about her situation. As you are in a province where these mixed marriages are so frequent, I could wish you had her letters with you: they might be of some service. She writes: 'To walk in a path of inward as well as outward affliction has long been my lot; nor have I any expectation of much alteration for the better in this life. Bereft, at times, even of the flatterer, hope, my inward situation is perfectly known to no one person. I am obliged frequently to appear serene and cheerful, when my poor heart is torn with conflicting passions. I have not a sufficient foundation in myself to support me under my daily trials, and my attention is too much taken up and engrossed with the cares of this world. I seldom get to meeting, my husband being unwilling that any business, though ever so trifling, should be neglected on that account. I have involved my poor children, too, in many perplexities. May the Lord have mercy and compassion on them, who are innocent of my transgression, and direct their feet in the right path, which I have forsaken, and turned aside from, which has cost me

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my peace of mind! Thou art a father of children—of daughters too. It is my sincere desire that they may be preserved from falling into the like error, and take warning from me, who have not had one hour's solid satisfaction (I believe) since I married. I once thought no power on earth capable of drawing me so far aside: secure, and confiding in my own imaginary strength, I dared at first to dally with the temptation; and am convinced, by sad experience, that the most trifling digression from our known duty, is a very great advance to the contrary.' Thus she writes to me.

"All our dear love to thee, presented by

"Thy dutiful and affectionate son,

"R. S."

ABRAHAM SHACKLETON TO HIS GRAND-DAUGHTERS DEBORAH AND MARGARET SHACKLETON, AT SCHOOL.

"Ballitore, 21st of 7th Month, 1765.

"DEAR CHILDREN,

"When I hear of the unfair walking of several under the profession of truth, (the very truth of God; a truth that will stand the test, through all generations, to the end of time,) I am concerned for you, my dear chidren, that you may fully answer the end of your creation, by glorifying the Great Author thereof, and be lights to others, that they may safely tread in your steps, who are concerned to follow the self-denying Jesus, who bade his deciples to take up their daily cross, and follow Him in the strait and narrow way that leads to happiness. Thus your words will be few, and convey something profitable to your school-fellows. My ardent desire for your lasting welfare, not only your reputation amongst men,

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which is to be regarded, but that you may grow in favour with the Most High, whose presence fills heaven and earth, from whom nothing is hid, makes me think of the beloved disciple: 'I have no greater joy, than to hear that thy children walk in the truth.'

"A. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 4th of 9th Month, 1765.

"DEAR CHILDREN,

"Peggy's letter to your father, of 2d instant, is before me; and it is pleasing to hear of your health and welfare, and will ever be so to us. I have been too much hurried with building up a part of my house, and live in fear of losing the sweet communion inwardly with my Maker, which is by far the best treasure; being the help afforded mercifully to us poor, short-lived mortals, for a preparation for a never-ending eternity. You know this, my dear children, and I hope are not unmindful of this most important point. Early piety, you have heard, is acceptable to God. Be sure, with all your getting learning, neglect not diligently to look for that fear which keeps the heart clean.

"A. S."

On the 11th of the 4th month, 1766, died Rachel Carleton, aged 78. Of this respectable woman, thus speaks her daughter Shackleton. "My mother went through much trouble, for a great part of her life, which seemed to be allotted in great mercy, as she had something in her nature high, though a prudent, careful woman in managing her household affairs, and in training her children; very

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much against dishonourable conduct in those who professed the truth; and was, I believe, more in substance than in show. Towards the latter part of her life she seemed gradually to be brought into more of the simplicity, and was of a tender spirit, very grateful to the Author of all our blessings, for His kindness in making her latter days more comfortable than she could have expected; my husband being an affectionate son, using his endeavours to make her happy, and the company of him, his worthy father and family, seemed helpful to her."

In this year, also, died Roger Shackleton, the beloved brother of Abraham, who had at different times enjoyed the satisfaction of his company in their native land, and with whom he kept up a regular correspondence. Roger Shackleton was a person of solid sense, great worth and benevolence, much esteemed within and without the pale of his own society. The archbishop of York valued his character, and was pleased with his conversation; and some of his flock complained how little influence they had with him, "whilst Shackleton can persuade him to what he pleases." He appears to have been a man of clear judgment, both in spiritual and temporal matters. In a letter, on his brother's opening school, after several judicious remarks on the best mode of teaching, he concludes: "And as to family charges, disappointments, and exercises, to do the best is a duty; but to be uneasy at what cannot be helped is a fault; for this world, and the things of it, are mutable. So the chief thing of all, and the height of happiness, is to have the mind turned to God; for the world is but the circumference, and He the centre, and the nearer to him, the more of self-abnegation; which state I desire we may all seek after, and grow therein." 1725.

The advice given to his young nephew, Richard, deserves consideration. "Thou mayst tell thy son, I am glad to see he is so good a proficient in writing, and other learning;

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and as for his casting about in his mind, that others, educated for school-masters, often, in some part of their lives, quit that business for others which offer, which he thinks is discouraging to one who thinks for himself, and is qualifying himself to acquire a living by what he is, through care and study, improving in. In the first place, I think it is enough for a student to improve his time in what his genius and future profit directs, and when he is turned into the world he hath a probable way of a livelihood; and when any thing falls in his way afterwards, that offers more liberty or advantage, he may embrace opportunities as others do, or have done; and if in his other projects he should miscarry, then his fund of learning is a relief which other miscarrying tradesmen may want. So that there is, even in the light he sees matters in, encouragement to proceed steadily. And I wish, as for my own children, that he may pursue the truth; i. e. seek for the knowledge of it in his tender years: it is a better portion than an earthly inheritance from a family, or any acquired parts whatsoever, and, as it is preferable to all things else, it ought to be sought early; and where it is found and attended to, hath a happy effect on the mind, in governing and steadying it, and in purging away all that is vile in the spirit or affections." 1740.

The account which he gives of the distemper amongst the horned cattle, in 1748, conveys an affecting idea of that calamity. "Amongst horned cattle the contagious murrain spreads, and makes great havock in this county, as it hath done for several years in other more southern parts. It is within two miles of this city (York.) In one town, about nine miles off, there are but three left alive; and people go four or five miles, it is said, for milk for their families. The distemper baffles all human skill and precaution; so that His hand that delights in mercy, is severe

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in judgment, no doubt to carry on the wise, good, and great ends of his providence."

The next letter, in order of time, is from

RICHARD SHACKLETON TO THOMAS CARLETON.

Ballitore, 13th of 2d Month, 1767.

"DEAR COUSIN T. C.

"I seem, doubtless, unmannerly or negligent, in never making any reply, in writing, to thy kind and friendly invitation to thy marriage, not at all writing to thee on that subject. Be assured my silence has not been caused by inattention, nor want of affection; but a multitude of affairs, of various kinds, and want of a fit disposition of mind, not want of inclination, prevented. I now greet thee and thy spouse with my wife's and my dear love, and sincerely wish you health and happiness, and the renewed evidence of a Divine blessing upon your union. You are now joined together, I hope, by the ordering hand of Providence. You are advanced a step higher, into a more conspicuous station in life and business. The author of every good and perfect gift has given thee, my dear Thomas, and I believe to both of you, a good share of natural capacity, and the means, through frugality and industry, with his blessing, of procuring a comfortable subsistence. He has placed you in a great and populous city, where you profess his holy and saving truth, among a large number of others of the same profession, who do not honour it as they ought in their lives and conversation. Now, my dear cousins, my mind is a little uncommonly engaged for your temporal and eternal prosperity, and I think I see the path, and the only one which leads infallibly to it. It is by humbly, diligently, steadily, and faithfully seeking to the Almighty Benefactor, for his preservation and blessing

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to be over and about you, and all that is under your hand. Strive not either to be or to appear great; nor stretch your wings beyond the circumference of the nest, which, in the set ordering of all-wise Providence, is allotted for you. Rather live under, and appear under your ability, than over. You will experience safety and quietness in it. The contrary is a temptation and a snare, and an inlet to many dangers of various kinds; and often, with new beginners, lays the foundation of difficulties, straitness, and embarrassments, which they are sometimes never disincumbered of, till they are disincumbered of mortality. Let us take a little view, my dear friend, of the persons and families which have been up and down, during our short time of observation; let us contemplate them, not with an evil nor a pitiless eye, but with an eye to the ways of that all-ruling Power, which resisteth the proud, yet giveth his grace additionally and manifold to the humble. Let us centre down, and have our dwelling low, in a conscious sense of our own unworthiness, and insufficiency to direct our own steps and prospects, either as to the things of this or a better life, without his blessed protection and mediation. Be truly humble, my dear Thomas; be frequent, and, as much as possible, constant in feeling after a capacity to breathe in secret after an acquaintance and communion with the Author of all goodness. Be exemplary in your conduct and conversation, and exterior appearance and deportment, as becomes the disciples, followers, and professors, of the religion established by Him who was meek and low in heart, and whose garment was without seam. So will you, in proportion to the purity of your intentions and the cleanness of your hands in his sight, gain the favour and approbation of Him who knows the heart, and hath all power in his hand to bless or blast at his pleasure.

"I am concerned and desirous, my very dear friend, that

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thy determined conduct may be such, now in the setting off in life, as that the good-will and approbation of Heaven may be to and upon it: if thou happily attain this, it must certainly be by being a pattern of humility, steadiness, and plainness, among thy numerous acquaintance in that city. This may occasion some trials, in which it will often be proved whether thy attachment to the testimony of truth, or to the spirit of the world, is most prevalent. According to the free-will choice which thou wilt be enabled to make, will thy ability to proceed aright be strengthened or weakened, and finally the one side or the other get the victory. The day of small things, and of little requirings of duty, proportioned to the state of children, is by no means to be despised. The cross to our own depraved wills is often to be borne, and many old friendships, connexions, habits, and propensities, of a hurtful or unprofitable nature, will be dissolved or decay: in the room of which, new desires and affections, new intimacies and society will gradually be formed. But in all that he throws down, as well as in all that he builds up, the Lord Almighty, as we rely upon him, and are faithful to his discoveries, will be found to do every thing right, and for our good, every manner of way.

"I might perhaps write more on this subject, but I should rather be under than over. I most heartily commend thee and thy dear wife to the grace and good spirit, guide and comforter in your own hearts, which is of itself entirely sufficient to lead you safely through this dangerous and troublesome world, to everlasting happiness; and which I hope will be sealed in your minds to the rectitude of this little counsel, and to the sincere love and unfeigned desires for your welfare, in which it is simply given. Indeed, it is not very usual with me to feel such a flow of earnest and solicitous wishes for the happy setting forward of any young

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couple of my acquaintance in life. May the right love and unity increase amongst us. * *

"Remember us very kindly to your father, and believe me, dear cousins, your truly affectionate kinsman and sincere friend,

"R. S."

Thomas Carleton had married an amiable young woman. His father (Samuel Carleton) and his friends were much pleased with the connexion; but how often are we taught that we have nothing certain while in mutability? The hopes which S. C. had cherished for his declining years, were suddenly destroyed by the death of his son, who was taken off by a fever, in about a year after his marriage. The heart of the disconsolate father rested on the amiable young widow; but, in the course of another year, he had to resign her also to an early grave, she having fallen into a decline soon after the death of her husband.

Abraham Shackleton having gone to attend the yearly meeting in London, was there taken ill. The following letter is from

"Crewgate, five miles from Namptwich,
"at the house of a kind friend, Thomas Mullenas,

"27th of 6th Month, 1767.

"My dear Son,

"I was taken unwell in London, on first day week, in the evening; but, by the care of my kind friends, was so far recovered that I set out on the 17th, and got to Namptwich in Cheshire; but being attacked there with an intermitting fever, my dear friend, J. C. after watching and caring for me night and day for four days, removed me to this kind family, where I want no outward thing that I know of, for my recovery.

"According to my present sense I am mending; and may,

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if Providence, kind Providence, who hath not I hope left me destitute, please, set forward in a few days.

As J. C. cannot be prevailed on to leave me, if I should be removed by death be sure let him not be at any expence from our coming to Namptwich. I wish his watching and caring for me, may not impair his health.

"If I get not home, I am sure thou wilt cherish all in thy power thy mother, my faithful wife and dear companion. And forget not her sister; and I should think she might be placed with cousin D. Carleton: there is enough to do justice to every one. I have no doubt of thy care in all things. For thy son, I hope thou wilt have comfort in him, and in the rest of thy children: that will be only as they attend to the inward saving principle of grace and truth. My dear love to thy mother, thyself, thy wife, and yours, and to enquiring friends; wherein my dear and over-careful companion joins, thy affectionate father,

"A. S."

Abraham Shackleton recovered, and returned to his family, who were thankful for being spared this threatened trial. His valuable wife, who was some years his senior, and debilitated by rheumatism, could seldom leave her fire-side, where she received her friends with a countenance innocently sweet, and engaged in cheerful conversation, denoting a truly humble mind. She at all times freely gave up her beloved husband, for the service of Him who had blessed them with his favour.

Margaret Shackleton was seized with a paralytic affection in her throat. She saw her end approach, not only with Christian fortitude, but with Christian joy, saying, she "was thankful to have passed through the wilderness of the world with so few scratches." She desired her son and his wife to take care of their aged father, and not let him work too hard, (for he loved to engage in agricultural

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employments.) She only regretted parting from *him.* The last night of her life, while he watched by her bed-side, she conversed with him on past occurrences, in a very interesting manner. The next afternoon, whilst he sat by the fire, he felt his mind so overshadowed with good, that he rose and went to the bed-side to communicate his feelings to his dear partner, but her sweet spirit had just fled: and the young heart of her grand-daughter Margaret, who was present, was also sensible of the sweet and sacred sensation; and when some one wanted to soothe her, she said: "O no; it is not grief." She died the 4th of the 3d month, 1768, in her eightieth year: and Abraham Shackleton gave up housekeeping, and lived with Deborah Carleton, who took affectionate care of him to the last.

A. S. TO HIS CHILDREN.

"Dungannon, 17th of 9th Month, 1768.

"My very dear Children, R. and E. S.

"Though I am personally separated from you at present, I do not forget you, but am sincerely concerned that you may grow in grace, and the inward and saving knowledge of God and Jesus Christ; who, I have in some small degree, at times, since I left home, been made sensible, would be a tender father to his obedient children. * * * I should have been pleased with a more particular account of the health of relations and friends there, than in my son's two last letters; though, as to my own part, I oft find it safest to say and write little. At times I have been filled with fear for S. J.'s son and daughter: do you feel for them and for your own. The temple of the heart ought to be kept clean and disencumbered; the spirit of the world defiles and unfits it for the reception and abode of the heavenly guest.

"A. S."

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A. S. TO A RELATION.

"Ballitore, 12th of 10th Month, 1768.

* * * "It is certain, if we are not watchful and careful to step along in true fear, during our pilgrimage through the wilderness of this world of dangers, we shall suffer great loss, and let an enemy into our habitation, who will sow one kind or other of evil seed, and suffer the loss of the unity of the spirit, the inward guide, which is the bond of such peace, as far too many are quite strangers to, seeking only to gratify a carnal inclination. And sooner or later they that do so must needs 'reap corruption;' when they that sow to the spirit, taking good heed to that unerring guide, the experienced apostle tells us, are to "reap life everlasting.' And the fruits of the spirit are meekness and sweet peace and joy, even in this life. Such are preserved by the rod and staff, and are no strangers to the working out their salvation with fear and trembling; and if they hold out in true faithfulness to the end of the race, will not be surprised without the heavenly oil in their lamps, at the midnight cry, "The bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet him;" they having been so wise as to keep their lamps burning, and their lights (to others, edifying lights) shining.

"I remember, my dear cousin, I felt good, inward good, in thy house, and this certainly is the saint's food; by this, the bread that descends from Heaven, their souls are nourished up to eternal life. The poor in spirit hunger for this, and he that tries and knows their poverty, and the sincerity of their honest heart, fails not to fill and feed them in due season, that they faint not; for his goodness and tender mercies endure for ever.

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"Thou hast children; tell them where durable riches are to be found: watch over them that they may be fruitful vines growing by the sides of thy house; that so the Lord of life, who is continually watching over us for our good, may have babes to praise him from one generation to another. Oh! that I could see, whilst here, the sweet-smelling myrtle and fir-tree succeed the thistle and thorn, that only encumber the ground, and bring not fruit, like trees of righteousness, to the honour of the good husbandman, who is looking for fruit. Let us not, dear cousin, be unmindful to watch always; and thus being preserved in our allotments, we may be of some service to our children and others, and have authority and true discerning to rebuke the stubborn, strengthen the weak, and comfort the feeble-minded, and be useful members of that spotless church whereof Christ Jesus is the holy head and high priest. * * *

"My son and his are a comfort to me in my old age, and join me in true affection for thee and thine.

"A. S."

A gentleman, whose extravagance and dissipation had reduced him to a languishing state of health, was surrounded by those who had not courage to inform him that his life was in danger. Elizabeth Shackleton was greatly concerned to hear this, and imparted her feelings to him by letter, as follows:

E. S. to ———

"It will undoubtedly appear very strange to ——— to receive a letter of this kind from a simple woman, and perhaps be a subject of ridicule; but if thou knew what has passed in my mind within these three days about thee, I believe thou wouldst give some attention to it. I heard thou wast very ill; not likely to be long in this life. I felt

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compassion and concern for thee, and would have been glad to be with thee at that time, that I might endeavour, if it were possible, to persuade thee to seek thy own good at His hand, who created thee in his own image, for a purpose of his glory, and thy own happiness; gave thee strength of body, a rational understanding, a sufficiency of the good things of this life for thy own support and the relief of others, and, above all favours, a gift of his divine and saving grace, to instruct and lead thee safely through life; for the apostle declares, 'The grace of God, which brings salvation, hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.' Now I desire thou wilt examine thy own heart, whether thou hast been thus led by this grace, or whether thou hast turned from it into wantonness, excess, and profaneness, not regarding the fear of the Almighty, who is the dread of nations, and to whom thou art under so many and deep obligations; who could have cut the thread of thy life when in thy full strength, if he pleased, yet has spared thee in mercy, to see if thou wouldst return to him. And now, perhaps, the abuse which thy constitution has got, may cause nature to fail, and thy body to return to its original dust; when the part in thee which is of eternal duration, must appear before the impartial judge of quick and dead, there to receive a reward according to the deeds done in the body: therefore I beseech thee, as a Christian —as a fellow-creature—as one who has felt something of the terrors of this just judge for evil, that thou wilt lay aside all intemperance.

"Consider these things seriously, and humble thyself in the sight of the great Lord of heaven and earth, before whom kings must bow, and the potentates of the earth lay down their crowns; that so thou mightst find mercy with him who willeth not the death of him that dieth in sin, but

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rather that all should repent, return, and live; which is manifest in the expressions of the prophet. When personating the Almighty he says: 'Wash ye, make ye clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do well, seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red as crimson, they shall be as wool.' And though thou mayst have gone great lengths in that road that leads to destruction, yet it seems my business to persuade thee not to be discouraged, by thinking thou canst not find mercy from turning to the Lord, who would have mercy; and to our God, who would abundantly pardon.

"I have no view in writing these things, but the ease of my own mind, that I may be clear of thy blood; and the good of thy immortal soul, whose welfare I wish as my own, and am, thy true friend,

"E. S.

"Ballitore, 20th of 1st Month, 1769."

It is said, that the person to whom the above letter was addressed, was much affected thereby, and had it read to him repeatedly as he lay on his death-bed; also, desired that it might be sent to another gentleman, who, he said, needed such advice as much as himself.

ABRAHAM SHACKLETON TO MARGARET SHACKLETON.

"Dublin, 30th of 4th Month, 1769.

"MY VERY DEAR GRAND-DAUGHTER,

"Thy welcome and acceptable letter was received. There are two worthy living ministers of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, arrived in

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this city from my native country; they exhort us to abide in the littleness. My very soul, and every thing within me that is worth notice, says amen to it. I think I have been stripped to the very root since I came to town; but, thanks to Him who, though he hides his face for a moment, will never totally forget his little flock, he appears in the needful times, and his hand is filled with consolation. Let him be thy chiefest joy, my dear, and then thou wilt step wisely in thy pilgrimage; little minding what people think of thee, if thou hast but the smiles of his countenance.

"My health is much better this morning; and if I should not live to see thee, and the rest of you there, who are near and dear to me, I trust, through mercy, to be gathered to the generations of those gone before, whose robes are happily washed in the blood of the Lamb.

"I am, with endeared affection to thy aunt, brother, sisters, and my friends there, thine,

"A. S."

A. S. TO DEBORAH CARLETON.

Dublin, 2d of 5th Month, 1769.

"DEAR COUSIN D. C.

"After a sinking, low, distressing season of inward poverty this morning, a degree of consolation springing up, and thou therein, and thy extraordinary care of me in my old age and widowhood, being brought into remembrance, I venture to address myself to thee in a few lines, wishing thee better health than thou hast had of late, and, what I am sure is far more desirable, that thou mayst be favoured with divine and heavenly peace: this is what sweetens all our bitter cups.

"My health of body is pretty much better these two

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days, and I am thinking of setting forward with my friends, towards the yearly meeting. Whether I may be favoured with strength to return to poor Ireland, is hid from me: I cannot see it. However, I desire humbly to confide in Him, who is able to help to the last, and in every difficulty.

"My dear love attends my grandchildren, and if I should not live to see them again, I wish them well. They have tender and religious parents and friends also to watch over them. Oh! religion is a heart-work indeed: may we all diligently, in very deed, labour for that peace that passeth the understanding of the natural, unregenerate man. Our meeting is now quite over: it hath been a season of consolation and inward advantage, I hope, to many.

"And now I desire, my dear friends, that grace, mercy, and peace, and the fruits of the spirit, may be enjoyed by thee, and abundantly multiplied in thy breast.

"A. S."

R. S. TO HIS FATHER, (then in London.)

"Ballitore, 14th of 5th Month, 1759.

"DEAR FATHER,

"We were much pleased to find, by thine from Chester, that you got safe over, and had such a ready passage. We should have been more pleased if thou hadst been a little more explicit about thy own state of health. * * *

It is true, my present situation is among the pots; yet I am a prisoner of hope. I am indeed an impotent man, nor is there in me, nor in the powers of my nature, any capacity to crawl near the salutary waters, much less to impart of them to others. I can say of a truth, I am glad to

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see my equals, my familiar friends and acquaintances, become my guides, take the lead, and grow from strength to strength in the great Master's cause. It is my earnest desire that I may never injure it; but having waded here through many deeps, (unknown to mortals,) I may be so preserved in my sorrowful pilgrimage, as that I may at last lay down my weary head in peace, and be admitted any where within the door of perpetual rest.

"Thou wilt feel while at London whether thy strength of body and draught of mind seem sufficient for thee to make a tour into Yorkshire: if these unite, no doubt it will be a reciprocal satisfaction to thee and our relations there, to have that visit performed, and such an opportunity of taking a mutual (perhaps final, solemn) leave. * * *

"With sincere desires, that if this attendance of thine at that great and solemn assembly be the last, it may be particularly distinguished to thee by the renewed seal and evidence of Divine favour, making green, fresh, and signally honourable in thy old age, I rest,

"Thy very affectionate, dutiful son,

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Ballitore, 4th of 11th Month, 1769.

"MY DEAR CHILD,

"We leave our large family, and great charge, not for any private, temporal gratification, (which yet at times might be lawful,) but from as firm a persuasion as our state, &c. admit and require, that it is our duty, both private and relative, to go to these solemn assemblies, in order to worship our great Benefactor, to whom such homage is in all reason due, and to lend a hand or heart to

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help forward the general good of our community, in exciting to their religious duties. On this solemn account we go. We leave thee, dear child, at home, expecting thy care and assiduous assistance in our absence. I trust thou wilt not deceive or disappoint us in these hopeful expectations which we have formed of thee. I often bow the knee of my soul, in prostrate gratitude to the Father of spirits, on account of the pleasing prospect which his goodness has afforded me of you, my dear children, being likely to embrace the offers of his merciful visitations to your tender minds. Prize them, I entreat and charge you, as your chief treasure: cultivate that field, and it will yield you a plentiful harvest, even the crop of all necessary, present benefits; and, what is infinitely more valuable, of eternal life. Be sober, dear child; be vigilant against a crafty adversary; love retirement, practise it; feel after something that is supernatural, to help, preserve, and comfort thee; and thou wilt grow from one degree of grace to another, and in favour with God and good men.

"R. S."

A. S. TO HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER DEBORAH.

"Dublin, 8th of 11th Month, 1769.

* * "Thou art thy father's first born; may the God of her who proved serviceable to her people, dwelling under the notice and blessings of the Almighty, and under the palm-tree, bless thee in all thy undertakings, and make thee a good example in the family, and a happy instrument of good in the church of Christ; and that the daughters of men, together with thy religious parents and

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friends, may bless God on thy account, saith thy aged, affectionate grandfather,

"A. S.

"P. S. I hope to remain waiting upon Him that is waiting to be gracious to sincere souls, and feeds them, as they steadily look up to him, with food convenient: they know his rod and his staff, and what it is to be fed with food convenient."

The following letter (without date) was written by Abraham Shackleton to Samuel Neale, previous to his embarking for America, whither he went on a religious visit, in the year 1770.

"Although I am one of the least of my Heavenly Father's children, several times since I saw thy letter to my son, I had it before me to salute thee with a few lines. I find He, that, in his abundant mercy and loving kindness, when thou walked in the broad way, gratifying thy corrupt appetite, visited thee, and fastened the crook of love on thy heart, and reconciled thee to himself, is now sending thee forth to call to others; even to rebuke the disorderly and comfort the feeble-minded, that many may be brought into the Shepherd's fold, and experience true peace and fellowship with the Father and his Son Christ Jesus. I trust the Lord, who is leading thee forth, will be thy consolation and strength, and thy dwelling-place be in him, in thy passage to that once wilderness country, both by sea and land, by night and by day; and may he arm thee, my dear friend, on the right hand and on the left, and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, and give thee true discerning; that thou mayst not be cast down on the one hand, nor be hurt by the flattering, fawning spirits on the other. It is settled with me to say, may the Lord of the

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Harvest, who ministers seed to the sower, be with thee in thy steppings along, and feed thee with food convenient for thee; keeping in a sense ever mindful of his instructive rod and his supporting staff, well knowing that the unity of the Holy Spirit is the bond of the saints' peace. I have been greatly pleased formerly, when favoured with thy company, to observe the watchful care that clothed thee, even in the times of enlargement and liberty of spirit, lest any word or unguarded expression should inadvertently pass, to wound or administer offence, in any wise, to the least babe in Christ. It is in true friendship I mention these things, well knowing the monstrous red dragon is as busy as ever with his tail, to draw down the bright stars from the heavenly habitation.

"A. S."

A. S. TO HIS GRAND-DAUGHTER MARGARET.

"Dublin, 5th of 5th Month, 1770.

* * "My mind is mostly centered among those who are begging their bread, and had rather be honestly poor, than filled with unwholesome food, and lose my appetite for that which nourishes the soul up to eternal life. At times I thankfully acknowledge, to the praise of the bountiful hand that satisfies the hungry babes with proper sustenance, I have partaken with the poor of the flock, of what keeps me from fainting, and encouraged to hold on my way in watchful fear.

"I long that you may be watchful, and grow in the root of life: *there* is true and real comfort to be experienced. My love and best wishes attend you all.

"Thy affectionate grandfather,

"A. S."

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER MARGARET.

"Dublin, 8th of 5th Month, 1770.

"DEAR CHILD,

"I have thy agreeable letter: thy grandfather also received thine * *. We are in usual health. The concluding meetings are to be to-morrow. It has been with me as is usual in my attendance here. The several dispensations which we are under in our religious pilgrimage, may be compared (I think) to the various turns, roads, and lanes in a journey. I am at present, and have been for many years, in one long lane: when I shall get out of it I know not. The believer is not to make haste. The great point is to make straight steps, and keep steadily right on our way in the right road, without loitering, looking unnecessarily behind, or, in the impatience of our own spirits, pressing too hastily forward. Indeed, I find the road of this life so bestrewed with difficulties and dangers, and myself so exceedingly weak, and unable, by my own powers, to preserve alive my own soul, or even to succeed in my temporal transactions by reason of my peculiar incapacity, that, under this sense, I cannot but commit me and mine, with great earnestness, to the protection and help of Divine Providence.

"I have been several times a little in company with thy sweet friend, as thou callest her, (Elizabeth Pim.) I have found my spirit renewedly and nearly united to her and her sister, since I came to town. There are too few here of their stamp. Too many are taken up with foolish, trifling gewgaws, quite unworthy of the noble, rational mind, formed by its great Author for far higher contemplations and enjoyments. For want of spiritual exer-

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cise, they have lost their spiritual health; they have no appetite for sound, wholesome food; their vitiated taste must be gratified with something that gives a little momentary pleasure, but fills the body with distempers.

"Thy affectionate father,

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Dublin, 6th of 11th Month, 1770.

* * * "I greatly desire the welfare of some of my young friends in a very particular manner; but the warfare between the spirit which is not of this world, and the spirit which is of it, is great and difficult: the situation of some makes it more so to them. And the Being, who is the source of all our happiness in time and eternity, is a jealous Creator, demands (as is his just right) the whole heart, and will not accept of a partial sacrifice: he requires the prime, the best, a whole burnt offering. Mayst thou, my dear child, steadily resign thyself in all humility to be guided in his wisdom, so wilt thou be preserved an exceeding great comfort to me, a blessing to the family, a way-mark, a good example; and an ordinance of help to thy near and dear friends, whom thou lovest, and by whom thy art beloved. Thus thou wilt be preserved out of the evils which are in the world, and the perplexities, perturbations, and troubles consequent to them; thou wilt grow from stature to stature in the experience of good; and though, in taking this cup of life, (which is a cup of mixture,) thou mayst expect to meet with trouble, yet thou wilt still find and feel the reward of thy diligence, faithfulness, and obedience to be peace.

My love to thee is such that I could willingly enlarge,

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but I am seldom in a situation fit for this manner of converse, when I am here. And besides, there is an unction which teaches all things that are necessary; truth in the inward parts, to which I refer thee as the most sure counsellor, fully capable to instruct thee in all things appertaining to thy spiritual progress, and to bring all things to thy remembrance in due course; supplying abundantly the lack of instrumental help, and making up every deficiency to those who are acquainted with it. And without we become acquainted with it, all other advice and assistance will stand us in little stead. * *

"Thy affectionate father,

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 18th of 12th Month, 1770.

"My dear Margaret,

"I received thine yesterday morning: it was very acceptable, as it conveyed variety of intelligence. * *

"The capacity for writing on the best subject, I know well, is not in our power, and better not meddle with it when it does not come freely. * * Thy grandfather has been poorly for several days past. It is quite uncertain, altogether in the hand of Providence, how it will turn out. It may be a means of his translation from earth to heaven, or it may prove a renewal of health and strength to him. I know, on hearing this, thou wilt be uneasy at being from him. But content thyself in patient resignation: if he grows worse, thou mayst be sure we shall soon send for thee. * *

"R. S."

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The last illness of A. S. continued some months, with intermissions which gave hopes of his recovery, but these hopes were soon overcast. He suffered great pain at times, which he bore with exemplary patience, saying, that he was mercifully dealt with. The national meeting falling out at this time, his son and others of the family attended it.

R. S. TO HIS FATHER.

"Dublin, 27th of 4th Month, 1771.

"My dear Father,

"Though I am not agreeably circumstanced, in divers respects, for writing at present, yet I look upon it as my manifold duty to send thee a line of short intelligence about our meeting to-day, seeing thou wast disabled from being present in body with us. Thy absence, as well as many other vacancies which have happened, and the want of that solid weightiness which should clothe the spirits of those who sit in such a meeting, was cause of humiliation and distress; yet I humbly believe, that a degree of that which only makes a living soul, reigned over all. The accounts received from the three provinces, were much in the usual strain of language, not worse; but I think, if any alteration, rather more agreeable than of late. My brother (school-master) John Gough, I hope, enlarged in his peculiar gift to general edification. Our friends Samuel Fothergill and John Stephenson opened, I believe, in pertinent counsel and remarks, accompanied with gospel authority and evidence. The former had it on his mind to propose in the meeting, the holding of a general meeting of conference, collectively for friends of

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both sexes, in which the London queries should be read, which is accordingly agreed upon, to begin at nine o'clock on second-day morning. * * * We received Debby's letter this afternoon: I fear that they will have trouble at home about A. W. Perhaps the accession of his present complaint may hurry him out of his poor decayed body. May he have a place of rest prepared for the poor spirit. The righteous hath hope at his death, a period that inevitably awaits us all; and those who go off before us, precede us that follow by a very short interval of fleeting time. * * * My wife and daughter join in dutiful and cordial wishes for thy restoration, with me and many more.

"I remain, with dear love,

"Thy dutiful and affectionate son,

"R. S."

A. S. TO HIS SON.

"Ballitore, 28th of 4th Month, 1771.

"SON RICHARD,

"He from whom we have every thing that deserves to be called truly good, this morning hath been pleased to open a little nook for poor me to sit and wait among his servants, that at times are mercifully favoured with some small degree of help and strength to wrestle for the blessing, and the continuation of a sense of his presence to accompany through their pilgrimage to the very end of it. Oh, my dear son, sincerity of heart is necessary, and is, I am sure, too much wanting amongst the professors of the very truth, as it is manifested and revealed unto a small remnant in this very poor nation. Alas! my son, in the sense I have at present of the declen-

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sion, their number is become so very small, that a skilful child might write them. Methinks, while I see the tares, the grand enemy hath sown in this drowsy state, fastening to the weighty grain, or endeavouring to do it, and choking thorns and fowls of the air making sore devastation among the seed of the kingdom, methinks I see thee sitting close by the willing in Israel, whose hearts, through infinite mercy, the Lord is moving upon, and stirring up to work for him in the day afforded. Though at this time my mind chiefly points to thyself, I by no means forget my daughter, thy consort and fellow-labourer, to whom remember me dearly; also be sure, with much affection, to S. F. and J. S. Nor do I want love for my other friends, to whom thou mayst present it.

"Thy father,

"A. S."

"P. S. Since I wrote the above, I have to acknowledge the receipt of thy letter, and am much obliged to thee for the intelligence thereby imparted to us, and hope you there will still continue to remember us you left at home. I believe I should be exceedingly glad to see my endeared friend S. F. if it should be so ordered that he came this way; but much desire that nothing may unfit or render him incapable of attending his more weighty service at London, where I have understood he intends going.

"A. S."

R. S. TO HIS FATHER.

"Dublin, 30th of 4th Month, 1771.

"MY DEAR FATHER,

"I was favoured with thine of the 28th instant, and in hopes it may afford some entertainment,

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would give thee a further detail of our meeting, if I could remember it; but as one billow succeeds another, so one exercising opportunity follows so closely upon another, in my deep wadings and weary steppings along, that I cannot always retain particulars in my remembrance. The meetings have been uncommonly large and crowded. It has been almost wholly the lot of our friend S. F. to *burn incense* publickly. He is, indeed, carried on wonderfully. His Master dignifies him, and exalts his testimony through him: he is made like the shew-bread on the altar—some sacred symbol that is eminent, conspicuous, attended with a degree of glory, in order to attract and engage a people too much outward, and, if possible by instrumental means, enamour them with the beauty which is in the truth. Such is the mercy and condescension of the Creator, who uses various means, in wisdom, that his creatures may not perish for ever; and leaves all without excuse, that their perdition may be of themselves. The London queries were read and answered yesterday, in the meeting of conference of Friends of both sexes. Samuel was beautifully drawn forth upon this occasion, as usual. The public meeting to-day was very large, and Samuel was concerned in testimony, also feelingly and fervently in supplication. I thought the meeting for discipline in the afternoon yesterday was flat, this afternoon more lively. I have had pretty close employment upon committees, &c. so that, at home or abroad, there seems little rest to the sole of my foot. Neither is it in oil that I dip it when it *does* rest; but if it returns to the ark of the testimony, and sinks or swims along with it, I may be satisfied. * *

"I am, dear father,

"Thy affectionate, dutiful son,

"R. S."

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During the continuance of A. S's distemper, while it was any ways suitable for him, he struggled to get out, to sit with Friends in their religious meetings, waiting therein for a renewal of strength to his inward man; and when prevented, by the progress of his disorder, from attending meetings, he was visited in his own apartment by many Friends, to whom he was often drawn forth in sweet counsel, to the tendering of their spirits, under the influence of the precious sense and power which accompanied his words. Many were the seasonable opportunities of this sort, and many the sensible, weighty expressions that dropped from him, in the course of his painful, tedious illness, which reduced him to very great bodily weakness. His flesh, indeed, exceedingly decayed, but his spirit was constantly renewed and replenished with heavenly oil; so that his lamp burned bright to the very last; and in holy confidence of a happy change, a little before his departure, he said to his relations about him, "I have no cause to grieve, neither would I have you." Yet he mentioned, in true humility, that he had nothing to trust to, but the mercies of the Almighty. His mind was often favoured with inward joy; and one night, after much bodily pain, he was so filled with heavenly consolation, that, with a melodious voice he said, "I am well: I feel no pain: I feel good. Oh, the elders! the elders! they should dig for the arising of the well of life, as with their staves in their hands. Spring up, O well, and I will sing unto thee." At another time, in a manner similar to this, he uttered these words: "Those that are faithful to the end shall receive a crown, a crown that fadeth not away; but rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft."

The night before his decease, a young man, about whom he had several times been anxiously concerned, being brought to his bed-side, though his speech faultered, he spoke in a living, sensible manner, with the authority of

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truth on his spirit. And to one of his own family, who was present, he addressed himself in a most affecting and encouraging exhortation, as if taking a last and solemn farewell. The next morning, though his speech grew worse, he spoke in a tender and cordial manner to some of his family. Some of the last articulate words he uttered, were expressive of the help and comfort which he felt; and even when his speech quite failed, his manner and gesture were such as those who were intimately acquainted with him knew he was wont to use, when his excellent spirit felt the power of truth in dominion. He departed this life in great peace, the same day about noon, the 24th of 6th month, 1771, aged seventy-four years; and after a very large and solemn meeting, to which his remains were brought, they were interred in Friends' burying-ground in Ballitore, 27th of the same.

His son long felt and long lamented the loss of such a father—such a friend; and that sorrow, which he indulged in secret, in the chamber where he had seen him die, sometimes burst forth at his own table, surrounded by his friends. The mantle of the departed worthy seemed to have descended on his son, who, deprived of his precept and example, endeavoured yet more closely to follow Him, to whose service both had been dedicated.

Long was the loss of this exemplary and venerable man felt, even by a wider circle than his own connexions. On this occasion his former pupil, Edmund Burke, thus writes to R. S. "I am heartily affected with the subject of your last letter. I had a true honour and affection for that excellent man. I feel something like a satisfaction in the midst of my concern, which I had not in the same degree before, that I was fortunate enough to have him once more under my roof before his departure. He was indeed a man of singular piety, rectitude, and virtue; and he had, along with these qualities, a native elegance of manners,

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which nothing but genuine good-nature and unaffected simplicity of heart can give, and which they will give infallibly, be the exterior forms what they may."

The following is an extract from the Testimony, concerning Abraham Shackleton, of Ballitore, Ireland, 1774.

"Reverent, awful, solemn and teaching to the thoughtful beholder, was his deportment in religious meetings. His humble spirit deeply and patiently waited (sometimes watched and waited long) for the resurrection of divine life: when this was present, he had all things; when this disappeared, all comfort seemed withdrawn.

"And, indeed, as he seemed beyond most men to take little satisfaction in any thing but the precious truth itself, so, we believe, he was beyond most men favoured with the overshadowing of it."

And John Griffith, in his Journal, page 274, 1760, says of him: "I met with my good friend, Abraham Shackleton, who travelled with me most of the time I was in that nation, (Ireland.) Of him I think it may be said, as was of Nathaniel: "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile!" He was a great comfort and help to me; and though he did not appear publicly as a minister, yet he would drop tender advice at times, in families, in a very affecting manner. His whole conversation, looks, and deportment, were so leavened and tempered with good, that I looked upon him as a preacher of righteousness wherever he came."

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CHAPTER IV.

Letters on different Subjects, between the Years 1773 *and* 1780, *inclusive.*

RICHARD SHACKLETON TO SAMUEL CARLETON.

* * * "Thou hast so far coincided with my sentiments. Now let me further add, in my humble judgment it will not prove to thy advantage, for divers reasons, to spend time unnecessarily in Dublin, when thy affairs will be settled there, so as that thou canst handsomely leave it. Many inconveniences attend an indolent life any where, especially there. Come as soon as thou canst into the country among thy friends, where are wholesome air, opportunity for exercise, and, in some places, wholesome conversation; of which last I would not be supposed to mean as if I thought the city entirely destitute. Thou art heartily welcome to my house, and need be in no hurry, but at thy own leisure, and after due consideration and trial, fix thy head-quarters where thou mayst think most proper; like the bird disencumbered and raised high from the earth, that sings up in the air, and looks down and chooses what spot to alight on. Thus mayst thou, dear cousin, being more unfettered from the cares of earth, soar nearer to heaven, making melody in thy heart, and anticipating the joys of that happy place. So shall thy last days be thy best days; and after all thy troubles, conflicts, and besetments, which I believe have been many, and of various

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kinds, thou wilt, through the infinite goodness of our great Benefactor, find and feel sweet peace at last.

"Accept of the hearty salutation of my father, wife, sister, and children. I am, dear cousin,

"Very affectionately thine,

"R. S."

After the death of Abraham Shackleton, Samuel Carleton came to live with his cousin Deborah.

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER MARGARET.

"Ballitore, 24th of 1st Month, 1773.

* * * "Mayst thou, dear child, be preserved in simplicity and nothingness of self; in humility and lowliness of mind, seeking diligently after, and waiting steadily for, the inward experience of that which is unmixedly good. This is the way to be helped along, from day to day, through one difficulty and proving after another, to the end of our wearisome pilgrimage; having recourse, like the hunted hart, to the brook by the way, when pressed by our spiritual enemies. By this, my dear child, the predecessors in our family, who lived in the truth, were enabled to wade through their afflictions, and knew that overcoming which entitles to the glorious, eternal rewards. Many are the favours which thou, my dear daughter, hast received at the hand of the great Giver. What need I enumerate any of them? thy grateful heart is sensible of them. May thy branches, weighed down with humility, gratitude, and all fruits of the spirit, bend towards the root which sustains every tree of righteousness, and from which its sap and life is supplied and derived. By humility and lowliness of mind, many temptations are avoided, and incumbrances escaped. It is a safe and quiet habitation, into which the devil cannot enter; and his emissaries

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view the dwelling with derision, and turn from it with contempt. So the heavenly guest has more free admittance, and uninterrupted abode; and the bread eaten in secret administers invisible but effectual support.

"I am, dear Margaret,

"Thy affectionate father,

"R. S."

In this year Dr. Leland published his history of Ireland, and Richard Shackleton received a letter, with the signature of the author, requesting his opinion of the work. The style of the letter gave no very favourable promise of the abilities of the historian. R. S. sent a civil reply, disclaiming any pretensions to critical judgment, and soon after received the following letter from the real author.

DR. L. TO R. S.

"July 2d, 1773.

"SIR,

"My absence from Dublin prevented me from receiving your favour till this day. Whoever he was that took the liberty of addressing a letter to you in my name, and whatever were his intentions, I account myself obliged to him. He has indeed been guilty of an unprovoked incivility to us both; but he has been the means of introducing me, in some sort, to one, of whom our common friends have often spoken with the utmost affection and respect, and with whom I exceedingly wished to be acquainted. I know not in what terms the request was made, that you would give your opinion of my book; but I beg you will allow me to repeat it, with sincere esteem, and a very just sense of the value of your opinion. I shall return to Dublin in the course of next week, and my first care shall be to send a set of the History of Ire-

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land to Mr. Jackson's. If you do me the honour to peruse it, I must entreat you will not send it back, but accept of it, as a small mark of my sincere regard.

"The book has been read in England, and received with more favour than I hoped for. Here it has had a few attentive readers; but as to the public in general, I was ever persuaded, that in this kingdom, at least, their voice would be determined precisely in the manner you mention. I am sorry to say that you will find it very incorrectly printed. Believe me, with very sincere respect and regard,

"Sir,

"Your faithful and most obedient servant,

"THOMAS LELAND."

R. S. TO DR. LELAND.

"Ballitore, 17th of 10th Month, (October,) 1773.

"DR. LELAND,

"I had the favour of writing to thee some time ago, and handed thee the original mock letter which gave rise to our correspondence. I have not had the pleasure of hearing from thee since, but perused thy history with the best attention which I was capable of. I am much obliged to thee for the book, and for the entertainment and instruction it has afforded me. Good history casts such a light on all sides, and upon such a multitude of objects, and is so nearly concerned with religion and morality, that he certainly deserves very well of the public, who contributes, in so great a degree, to their pleasure and profit, by presenting them with a work of this kind. Thy history, without doubt, has cost thee much painful labour: there must have been much pioneering, much fable and false-

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hood to clear away; and when this has been done, but scanty and bare materials left to erect a comely edifice. However, the cement is so good, and the several parts so aptly joined together, that we see a complete, well-finished, though not a magnificent structure; a structure which, in my opinion, will last, although a flood of calumny and false criticism should assault it. I only speak my own unbiassed sentiments: I have neither opportunity nor leisure to ransack and examine the stores from which the great leading historical events have been drawn; but I have all along particularly remarked such a diligent, wary investigation of the reality of facts and characters, that I attend to the narrative with the satisfaction which a man feels, who is persuaded, from the cautious veracity of his author, that what he hears is true.

"An history of our own country is in some respects like an history of our own times; it necessarily, by some means or other, touches so nearly particular families, that it is no wonder if individuals are piqued in some cases, whose family pride or interest is concerned; and, taking offence at a part, decry the whole work. Self-love sits close to us, and we do not like to see an aspersion lie even on our own family names. Different sentiments also in religious matters, cannot fail of operating variously on those who read such an history: these sentiments being interwoven among our earliest prejudices, and fast rooted and rivetted by our judgments or our feelings, are not indeed easily shaken, but very sensible of any rude attack. On this account I am also of the number who think some part of thy history exceptionable. The expression which I wish to be altered is cited below*.

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* Vol. iii. p. 504. "But those called Protestants were chosen from Quakers, or other enthusiasts—from the poor, the profligate, and contemptible."

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"I know very well that the people called Quakers have their frame and organs, and are subject to like passions with other men; and that through the deceivableness of unrighteousness, and delusion of a subtle enemy, who is transformed into an angel of light, they may be mistaken and led astray in their religious exercises, unless, according to the apostle's advice, they watch and be sober; unless they patiently wait and watch for the appearance of Christ by his spirit, in their hearts, who told his then present followers, 'without me ye can do nothing;' and who encouraged his future followers to expect the same aid by the promise of 'Lo! I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.' Unless they thus wait, they may run before they are sent, and offer the sacrifice of fools: and unless they be sober and steady, keeping to the feeling sense of divine truths, and under the guidance of divine wisdom, they may, as well as others, follow the imaginations of their own brain, instead of immediate revelation, be deceived themselves, and deceive others.

"These dangers, my friend, I frankly confess attend us; but I also hope and believe we are, in general, happily preserved from them. I do not think that we deserve to be caricatured in the lump, with the denomination of enthusiasts. However, this does not cause but that I hold both the author and his history in great respect and estimation. * * I admire the celebrated writers of the Augustan age, who yet looked on the primitive Christians in their time, as a contemptible, insignificant sect; and thereby proved the truth of the apostle's observation, that the world by wisdom knew not God.

"I hope thou wilt excuse the liberty which I take in thus expressing myself: I assure thee it is not without sentiments of real regard and esteem. I am persuaded that Dr. Leland has pondered deeply on the most interesting subjects, and knows that a religion

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which does not enter into a man's feelings, and influence his life, can be of no service to him: it is inanimate, dry, and formal. Yet, as a man's feelings can only be rightly known by himself, can often with difficulty be explained to others, and often cannot at all be comprehended by them, it may be necessary that a people, dissenting from a national religion and way of worship, established by law, should give some reasons for their dissent, and a rational account of their faith; I therefore hand thee herewith a treatise on our religious principles, which I beg leave to recommend to thy solid perusal; and whether thou wilt approve of it or not, I request that thou wilt accept of it from me, as a token of my sincere regard,

"Who am, respectfully thine,

"R. S."

DR. LELAND TO R. S.

"November 23d, 1773.

"DEAR SIR,

"It is not without sincere regret that I have been so long diverted from my purpose of acknowledging the favour of your last letter, and the obliging present that attended it. A variety of cares and occupations, on my appointment to an extensive parish in Dublin; and some intervals of languor and depression, occasioned by the remains of those nervous affections which I contracted by making more use of my pen than my horse, are the only excuses I can make for so long a silence. Let me at length entreat you to accept my cordial thanks for a letter so flattering to me, and which confirms me in the respectful sentiments I had entertained of the writer. I am particularly

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gratified by the candour and kindness of your remarks on the difficulties I encountered, both in collecting and selecting the materials for my history, and the appearance of veracity that it bears. My task was indeed laborious, and whatever violence I might do to prejudices and prepossessions, I considered myself as an evidence before the tribunal of the public, and as solemnly bound to declare the truth, to the best of my knowledge, as we should have been had *I sworn* and *you affirmed*. The consequence has been, in this kingdom, as I supposed: my representations have not given entire content to any party. I have been already attacked from different quarters, but with so much impotence, so much frivolous and captious folly, and so shameful an ignorance of the subject, as are perfectly mortifying; for I confess I should have liked to have been called out by an ingenious and plausible critic. Forgive a little ebullition of vanity, when I declare I felt somewhat of the ardour of a much younger and cleverer fellow.

'Optat aprum aut fulvum descendere monte leonem.'

And now, none but the most ignoble beasts of the field have deigned to take any notice of me. But I am abundantly consoled by a number of such testimonies as yours; and in a country where Irish parties are little regarded, I have received a great deal more than justice.

"But I cannot sufficiently thank you for the truly polite, ingenuous, and candid manner in which you have urged your objection to one particular expression that escaped me. If it be Quakerism to enforce the momentous distinction between the vital, influencing spirit of Christianity, and the nominal and formal profession of religion, I have ever been preaching Quakerism, and God grant I may live and die a Quaker! But instead of entering into certain discussions, in which I might not express a difference of

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sentiment with the same politeness, or to give it a more honourable name, with the same spirit of meekness, that you have done, I at once plead guilty, and acknowledge that no religious sect should ever be generally included in an yone invidious appellation. Had I received your favour before the octavo edition was printed off, the expression should not have continued in it: I must take the first opportunity in my power of correcting it.

"Farewell, my dear Sir,

"And believe me very gratefully and respectfully,

"Your obedient and affectionate servant,

"THOMAS LELAND."

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Dublin, 7th of 5th Month, 1776.

* * "Religion, which is an acquaintance with God in spirit, is the noblest principle which man is capable of. But the activity and energy of it is not at man's command. We are to be quiet, passive, and not seek to stir up our Beloved till he please. Let us abide at home (in the house) till intelligence arrives that the Master is come, and calleth for us. Men, willing and running of themselves after the knowledge of religion, as they do after discoveries in natural science, bewilder themselves, and effect nothing that is profitable. Patiently wait, and quietly hope, is the lesson which we should learn. How dry and like ashes our minds are, when the flame of religion (I mean the active present virtue of it) is extinct.

"Thou hast, my dear Abraham, a weighty charge devolved upon thy youthful shoulders. Thou hast great occasion for wisdom. * * * * * * *

"I am, indeed,

"Thy affectionate father,

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"London, 1st of 6th Month, 1776.

* * * "This is a time and place for deep feeling, weighty, concise speaking, and close attention to a variety of church-business. * * * It seems that this yearly-meeting is larger than common, and indeed it is an awfully-splendid sight to behold. To be sure, many come, perhaps, in a light mind and vain curiosity, to the general meeting of business: however, there is a noble appearance of valuable friends, of deep spiritual wisdom and experience. Men of great capacities speaking like children, glorying in being servants of the church, and despising all treasures in comparison of those laid up for them in heaven; contemning every connexion, comparatively, except a connexion with Christ, and those ties which are confirmed and sanctified by his spirit. * * * William Dilworth, William Rathbone, and Isaac Wilson are here, endued with gifts, and exercising them in the beauty of holiness, to the edification of the church. * * * There are young people here, of such a number and sort, as would do thy honest heart good to see them. In the effusion of love and life, and in the torrent of a powerful testimony, in the meeting of business, Isaac Sharples proposed a nomination for a visit to the counties and places in England. The representatives from Ireland prevailed on the meeting to extend the visit to Ireland. It was very agreeable to see what numbers of the first rank and eminence voluntarily gave in their names for the service; others were nominated by their friends. Some, who were backward in offering themselves at the first sitting, gave up their names afterwards, and seemed as if they durst not go home till they had made that sacrifice.

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"There were, I believe, threescore and ten valuable friends given up to this service, who are to divide themselves and separate to the work. * * *

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"London, 6th of 6th Month, 1776.

* * "I have been these two last nights at Edmund Burke's, in Westminster. They have been very kind, and he is indeed an admirable man. * * I thank Divine Providence that my relish (I hope prevailing, uppermost, permanent relish) is for other things. Indeed, the distraction occasioned in the mind, by being of necessity occupied by two different objects, causes a disagreeable sensation in a spiritual constitution weak as mine. People may judge and think of me, some better, and perhaps some worse than I deserve; but He that sees in secret, at the same time that he knows my infirmities, and that I am as a reed shaken with the wind, sees also, I trust, the sincerity of my heart, and prepares many an offering therein. * * * The more any of us are impregnated with the seasoning virtue of true religion, the more savoury is our conversation and mutual communication. And, indeed, all of us, young and old, have need, in each of our departments, to feel after and witness its efficacy: we want it for food, we want it for cleansing, we want it in prosperity to limit and preserve us, we want it in adversity to sustain and console us.

"R. S."

In this year Richard Shackleton gave his second daughter, Margaret, in marriage to Samuel Grub, and, on

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her settling with her husband in Clonmel, he writes thus:

R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Ballitore, 28th of 7th Month, 1776.

* * "I suppose thou art very busy settling poor Peggy in her new habitation: the parting with her, and assigning her over into another family, and unto a distant place, has caused a sensation new to me. After a connexion has been formed by nature, strengthened by the most endearing ties of religion, friendship, and affection, and improved by long acquaintance and familiarity, a separation of this sort comes near the heart, and affects our finest feelings. We, I include my dear sister Carleton, formed her (or rather the Great Master formed her, and made us instrumental in his hand to model her) to be of use and service in her generation, in the place allotted to her. We might not expect to keep her always to ourselves. May she be the Lord's, and in body, soul, and spirit devoted to his service, whom she will experience to be the best of Masters; and I am persuaded that her honest, worthy husband will further her, all in his power, in every good word and work. Their preferring the duties of religion before all things, giving it the preference on every occasion, rejoicing when it flourishes, and sorrowing when it suffers, is the way to draw down the Divine blessing on their heads, and to cause them to be as happy as is consistent with human condition. Debby and Abraham assist finely in their departments; and if our M. and S. be spared to us, and we to them, I doubt not but they will be a comfort to us. When I say this, it is with a hope that they will bend their minds the best way, live in an awful reverence of their great Creator, and, above all things, fear to offend him. Without witnessing a

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sense of religion to leaven their spirits, their company and conversation would be but insipid and unsavoury to us; and they would ever be in danger of falling into snares and many temptations, which are laid by the adversary of mankind for incautious, giddy youth. * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER MARY.

"Ballitore, 30th of 7th Month, 1776.

"As my dear M. bespoke me to write to her, I think to send her a little scrawl. I hope thy dear mother and thou have been bravely since you left us, as (through favour of kind Providence) we generally are. I do not doubt but thou receivest many civilities and marks of affectionate regard from thy friends and new relations there. People who are civil themselves are generally treated with civility, but the froward meet with those of their own stamp. For my part, when I was lately in England, I did not not know what to do with the peoples' kindness. Indeed, I believe I should have been in danger of being hurt by it, but for one thing. I had got, by long experience, some knowledge of myself, and I well knew that of myself I was poor, weak, unstable, ignorant, insignificant; and that if I had any little capacity to step aright, or drop a word to edification, it was no merit of mine, it was by the grace of *God; a name*, my dear, which I would not make free to write, but that I feel a solemnity unexpectedly cover my spirit, while I thus hold converse with thee. Be thou also careful, my beloved Mary, to centre deep in humility and abasement of self: it is the tree which takes deep root downwards, that is most likely to stand against the storm. This is the spring-time of

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thy life. May thy tender, innocent heart be open to receive the precious seed, which I trust the great and good Husbandman will condescend, and has condescended, to sow therein; may He also be pleased to water it with the visitations of his love, immediately and instrumentally; may he guard and protect it from every noxious thing! Thou seest how thy elder sisters have made choice of religion, as their principal treasure. Be thou also a wise child; and whatever natural abilities it may please the great Creator to endue thee with, or whatever acquisitions or improvements thou mayst make of those natural gifts, by contemplation, reading, or converse, thou art only acceptable in the sight of Heaven, (however man may estimate thee,) as thou takest heed to the grace in thy own heart, to be restrained by its restraints, to do nothing contrary to its gentle remonstrances, and to obey, in humility and simplicity, its leadings and requirings. My dear child, above all things be humble, be humble. Humility goes before honour: it is the humble whom the Lord teaches of his ways. We have in each of us a certain something, appertaining to self, (it is of the flesh,) which profiteth nothing in the work of religion. This fleshly part is pleased, and nourished, and swells with the praise and commendation of fools; for wise men would not puff up: and we have need of frequent retirement to the gift, the grace in our minds, that in the tranquil, cool hour of the day, not inflated by vain knowledge, or perturbed by passion, we may, in the stillness of all flesh, hear what this monitor, this good spirit, this faithful witness, says to our states. Perhaps when, figuratively speaking, all men speak well of us, this heavenly, sure, unerring word of prophecy, which preaches to our own particular states, as individuals, will condemn or reprove us. This is what we are to go by, and judge and estimate ourselves by; and not by the crude, superficial, hasty, partial judgment of

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capricious mortals, whose favour veers about like the wind. My mind is often exercised on behalf of my children. You are the children of many prayers. You have hitherto been a great comfort to your dear mother and me, and we have no greater joy than to see you walk in the truth. It is neither in our will, nor in our power, to do great things as to this world for you. We are not like many others who have large possessions and lucrative business. Providence, in the wise distribution of his favours, has allotted us a lower rank in life; yet, with industry, care, and prudent economy, he has enabled us to procure a sufficiency. And indeed a great redundance is not desirable: the lip of truth has pronounced how hard it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom. A little sufficiency of the things of this life, enjoyed with moderation, and under a renewed sense of the divine blessing, is all that I think we should wish for; and when obtained, should be cause of deep, and humble, and fervent gratitude to our Great Benefactor.

"So, my dear, I have unexpectedly written thee a long letter, instead of a short scrawl. I was writing to thy dear mother, and whatever was the meaning of it, I could not enlarge as usual to her; so I turned to thee, and found greater facility and fluency. Not that I think my letter to thee is any thing extraordinary, as to its value, or that I had any extraordinary influence to write it. But so it fell out: these things occurred, and I venture to pen them down, in a degree of freedom of mind. And, indeed, without such freedom, we should be cautious of writing or speaking on the solemn subject of religion. Our own spirits, as human creatures, may agitate other matters; but the spirit of Christ in us, should more or less open our understandings, and give liberty, when we meddle with the things of his kingdom. Perhaps I may not very often again, at least for some space of time, converse with thee

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on this awful theme; but whether present or absent, speaking, writing, or silent, be assured I am, with the closest feelings of paternal love,

Thy truly affectionate father,

"R. S."

FROM R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Ballitore 1st of 8th Month, 1776.

* * * "We are not to judge by outward appearances. There may be great exactness in keeping to the letter of the discipline, and a good form, when either the overcharge of temporal concerns, or indolence of spirit, or permission of wrong things in their families, may preclude the flowing forth of good to individuals; and when divers of such individuals are collected together, sometimes darkness and heaviness will be felt, more than light and life. * * * I am persuaded thy honest, faithful heart, loyal to thy sovereign, true to his testimony, and zealous in his cause, is approved of by Him who knows the heart; and if *thou* dost not go a good gait at last, I do not know what will become of some of us. * * * *

"R. S."

FROM R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Dublin, 2d of 11th Month, 1776.

* * * "We may expect good cheer in good company, but may be disappointed. It is our great loss, as a people, that we so much stand looking one upon ano-

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ther. 'Ye men of Jerusalem, why stand ye looking one upon another, Jesus whom ye seek is not here'—is not to be met with by looking for him after this manner. 'If ye seek him, ye shall find him.'

"We profess and hold forth a spiritual, supernatural principle, as the essential, vital part of religion; enabling us both to live, (be spiritually alive,) to know, and to will and to do, as Christians. The world denies this principle, so stumbles at the threshold. It is hard, perhaps impracticable, by dint of reason, to convince even rational men of things which are above reason, which are supernatural. They must be convinced by supernatural means, even by the effects of that power which they deny: these effects, to be seen and felt in the lives, conversation, and word and doctrine, of the professors of truth, who live in, and are guided by the power of it. * * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 28th of 3rd Month, 1777.

"My dear Margaret,

"Though I have not written immediately to thee for a long time past, as the intelligence communicated to thy dear sister Deborah seems to answer the end of writing to you both; yet I believe thou art thoroughly persuaded of the warmth of my affection for thee, and the solicitude with which I wait thy approaching trial.

"Thou art among most cordial and affectionate relations, and hast all the means of help at hand, which prudence may think necessary, or competence can procure. Cheer up, then, my dear child, trust in Almighty help,

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be not too anxious about contingent circumstances, nor look too far before thee: live a day, an hour, a minute at a time, as well as thou canst, and leave the future. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. We are creatures but of a moment, so that in husbanding and improving the smallest portions of our time, consists our greatest wisdom. I embrace thee with sincere affection. * * *

"Thy tenderly affectionate father,

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON-IN-LAW.

"Ballitore, 25th of 6th Month, 1777.

"My dear Samuel,

"With great pleasure yesterday evening I received thine, giving account of thy dear wife being on the recovery (from a fever.) I hope thou wilt have to continue us like favourable reports, till she is able to confirm them with her own hand. I am in sentiment with thee, that this trial may have been permitted for good purposes: we may see thereby, and by numberless instances, how uncertain is the state of human prosperity, and how soon the fairest buildings of our imagination, our schemes and our hopes may be dashed to pieces. We live in a world, where, from a multitude of causes, we may be made most wretched and miserable, and miss of a place of rest hereafter. What need have we then to walk awfully in humble thankfulness, when we enjoy all the necessaries and conveniences of life, and when this life is rendered by our Almighty Benefactor not only tolerable, but comfortable: yea, when in the infinity of his condescending goodness, he is graciously pleased to superadd to his temporal

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favours, the visitations of his Holy Spirit, to prepare us for, and afford us an earnest of eternal salvation. May you, my dear children, keep your vessels, your hearts, clean and empty, waiting in abstractedness of thought and nothingness of self, that these vessels may receive some of the blessed infusion, which will preserve you, will strengthen you to go through the duties of this life with alacrity, and qualify you to be of some service in the church in your day. I have unity with you both, in your baptisms, in your dedications, and in your resolutions that you will choose the Lord and his service, and not the world and its spirit, for the lot of your inheritance; and the petition of my heart is for your growth and establishment in the most precious truth. Amen!

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——

"Ballitore, 3d of 8th Month, 1777.

"MY DEAR MARGARET,

"I am glad once more to receive a letter from thy own hand. I wish us to be preserved thankful receivers of the many favours conferred upon us. May we be still kept in a sense of our weakness, and wretchedness, and insufficiency without Divine protection and assistance, that we may look and lean to the Lord, who is omnipotent and omnipresent, and, from one season to another, cultivate an acquaintance with him, through the means which he has allotted for that purpose, his spirit placed in our hearts; by the operation of which, petitions and offerings are prepared, and ascend with favour and acceptance, to our common Creator and Benefactor, who is worthy of a whole burnt-offering from each of us; even a total dedication of

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our all to him, from whom we have all, and by whose special goodness and mercy we yet remain, I hope, in degree alive, in every respect, to make mention with gratitude and reverence of his excellent name. * * * *

"R. S."

E. S. TO HER DAUGHTER S. S.

"Ballitore, 15th 8th Month, 1777.

* * * * "Thy father, M. and I, set out for Moate, fourth day week. Our journey was attended with some little difficulties, but we were greatly favoured in getting safe home; and, as our motive for going was to be found in the way of our duty, I hope it was acceptable. The public service of the meeting seemed chiefly to rest upon that faithful servant, Elizabeth Robinson, though most of the ministering friends who were there, had acceptable service also. All tended to the one thing; that is, to promote reformation amongst the professors of truth, that they might become possessors of it; which would be of more real value to us, by far, than any or all earthly enjoyments. So thou, my dear child, seek early and late for this pearl of price! Forget not the constant, inward watchfulness unto prayer, that thou mayst be preserved from the many temptations that await thee on this stage of life. Beware, lest thy mind, through unwatchfulness, be too much drawn away after trifling objects. I do not mean admiring the beauties of the creation, which leads to adore the Power that caused them to be; neither the improvements of sensible, useful members of civil society; but many things that may present in variety of company, conversation, &c. though I hope thou art not in the way of such things, as many other young people are, who

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are much to be pitied. And those who are favoured with a careful education, have cause of humble thankfulness to the Author of all our blessings, that he was pleased to cast their lot in the way to be directed aright, while so many of our brethren, by creation, remain in darkness; not being directed to look to the light, to be their leader, and the anointing to be their guide.

"E. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Dublin, 4th of 11th Month, 1777.

* * * "It is a capital favour to have a sound mind in a sound body. Indeed, the favours conferred on our house are very great and very numerous: the principal is the *Divine visitation*, which I wish may be embraced with due gratitude and humility by us all. It is an holy thing, not to be trifled with, not to be put in competition with any other thing; not to be put off with a 'Go,' and tarry yonder, and 'at a convenient season I will call for thee;' but received with open heart, and into the uppermost chambers there. Next, health of body. Then, kind, and tender, and dear relations and friends, and the means of procuring every necessary of life. Let none of these favours escape our notice, but be the subjects of our grateful contemplation; that so He that delights to do his creatures good, in blessing may continue to bless us, and to protect and help us. * * *

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G.

"Ballitore, 18th of 7th Month, 1778.

* * "Thy account of thy visit to the widow Rigg was very agreeable. The sick room is often a profitable place. When the favoured of Heaven are in the furnace of affliction, the Son, the Comforter, is often sensibly amongst them; and where he is, it is good for us to be. * * *.

"R. S."

On the 22d of 7th month, 1778, that respectable woman, Deborah Carleton, died at the age of sixty-five. The following letter gives ample testimony of her estimable character*.

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 27th of 7th Month, 1778.

* * * "Our loss, to be sure, is great, in thy beloved aunt, Deborah Carleton, as she was both a sensible and sincere woman. She was watchful over our interests, and over the interest and welfare of our children, with an anxious, tender, affectionate solicitude; and, as

* In the almost maternal care which, as has been before remarked, D. C. extended towards R and E. S.'s children, she was aided by an excellent servant, Elizabeth Widdows, whom she brought up from a child; who was religiously inclined, had a good understanding, and was not without some literary taste. She assisted her mistress in giving a bias to the minds of her interesting charge, in favour of what was good and honourable; and was justly esteemed and beloved.

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she had long experience of the world, was very capable of advising respecting it.

"The children, as might be thought, mourned, and will mourn the removal of so near and dear a friend, relation, guardian, assistant, instructor, and companion; but the dispensation will, I trust, be of benefit to their spirits, and time will wear off the keen edge of grief. She died the 22d, and we interred her remains yesterday, after the rise of the forenoon meeting. It was concluded best not to bring them to the meeting. The dead was not there; but, through infinite kindness, the living who attended were favoured with the baptizing power and presence of the Lord. Our dear friend James Gough came from Dublin on the occasion, and had good time in testimony at the meeting: in testimony again and supplication, with renewed evidence of good, at the grave. The exemplary life and good qualities of the deceased were spoken to, in allusion to Cornelius the centurion: 'Thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.' And it is the crown of our comfort, that not only her passage out of this life was made so easy, that at the last she seemed only to cease to breathe; but at the solemnity of her interment, there was felt so strong and well-grounded a hope of her translation from a painful body to a place of rest and happiness, which hope was borne testimony to, I think in a good degree, of the life and authority of truth. Our invaluable, steady, sincere friend, Elizabeth Pike, who is so hard to be prevailed on to pay visits, or stay unnecessarily from home, has continued with us ever since, and does not purpose to leave us till to-morrow. I think I never knew such another, (man or woman,) for firm, steady friendship: her company is of great use, and a consolation to thy mother. She came with intention to administer comfort to my dear sister; but that comfort was reserved for her survivors. * * * I doubt not the kindness

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of thy friends and relations in visiting thee in thy trouble. Give all our dear love to them all. I love them that love thee. E. Pike joins us in dear love to thee. May kind Providence bless and protect thy little ones, saith thy truly affectionate father,

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Ballitore, 13th of 2d Month, 1779.

* * * "I hope to be at the solemnization of your marriage, and trust that if we keep to a right preparation of heart, the Great Master will favour us with his presence. Thou sayst, and truly, that solemnity causes inward strength; but the heart must witness a preparation for the solemnity. This preparation of heart, this cleansing our way, is only effected by taking heed thereto, according to the dictates of the in-speaking word. Keep pace with this, and in all your previous transactions do nothing contrary to this, and I doubt not but you will be strengthened to go through the public part which you have still to act, in a manner suitable to the occasion. Remember the advice which Mary gave at that honourable marriage, to which both Jesus and his disciples were called: 'Whatever he saith unto you, do it;' and the consequence was, that the plain, simple water-pots for purification, were made to contain most excellent wine. You are both very dear to me: I love you both as one. You are the companions of my thoughts, and subjects of my prayers. You must bear with me then, if, with parental tenderness and affection, I earnestly recommend to you the path which leads to present and future happiness. It is not a path in which the world walks, for the friendship of the world is enmity with God; but it is a path of holi-

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ness and self-denial; it is a path of lowliness and purity; but it is a path in which is found substantial peace. May you walk hand in hand through life in this path, encouraging one another in every good word and work, true helpmates in prosperity and adversity; 'looking unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you:' i. e. calling to your frequent recollection your ancestors, male and female, from whom you are descended; men and women devoted in all their noble faculties to the cause of truth, which is the cause of genuine Christianity: worthies whose names are of sweet memorial, and will very probably be transmitted, with real honour, to latest posterity. 'Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace.' And it is the end which we should still keep in view. * * *

"R. S."

On the day on which his son was married to Lydia Mellor, R. S. wrote to his wife.

"Dublin, 23d of 2d Month, 1779.

"My dear Love,

"This day is over: it is near nine o'clock. It has been a memorable day, to be commemorated by me and mine with humble gratitude. The meeting was solemn and favoured. The spirit of thy poor husband prostrated in reverent, humble gratitude, and baptized in the deeps. Surely if this connexion was not of the Lord, surely his power would not be so evidently felt in the solemnization of it. Gratitude, my dear, gratitude has overcome my heart for this addition of favour. We have had this evening a good, religious opportunity after tea, in which dear James Gough was, I think, well concerned; as he was remarkably in the public meeting, both in testimony,

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before the parties took each other in marriage, and afterwards in supplication. * *

"Lydia is really an engaging young woman. I hope we shall have comfort in her, and that she will do her husband good, and not evil, all the days of their living together. * *

"R. S."

By this marriage another branch was grafted into the stock of this family; a branch bearing good fruit, in every sense of the word; worthy of her descent from Margaret Fell, (Fox;) and helping to fill the vacuum, and heal the wound, caused by the recent loss of a beloved relation, (D. C.) On his son's marriage, R. S. resigned the school to him, and retired to the house where his father had lived.

It may not be unappropriate to make a short mention here, of some of those domestics, by whose upright conduct and fidelity R. S.'s pious concern for the right ordering of the family had been essentially promoted. A young friend from the county of Wexford was servant to R. S. and his first wife: she was a person of much simplicity and little cultivation, but truly wise in having "chosen the good part," which was "never taken from her." She married James M'Connaughty, who also settled in the family. This worthy couple had no children, but they loved those of their master with nearly the same affection as if they had been their own; and this love was fondly returned, and a tender respect paid to their memory, by those whose infancy they had cherished, and whose youth they watched over for good. James, after some years, took a mill of his master, and removed to it, obtaining, in the country, the title of "honest James." He died in 1780, of a short illness, and his widow returned to her master's house, where she survived him ten years. They had been blest with

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mutual happiness in each other, and with the protection of Him whom they loved above all. For several years the station of housekeeper at the school was also filled by a religious friend.

The dwelling which became the residence of Richard and Elizabeth Shackleton, when they relinquished the important charge that had devolved upon them, received from R. S. the name of the *Retreat*. Here, loosened from the ties, and released from the responsibility which had in some degree limited their general sphere of action, they became still more dedicated to the service of the society.

In 1779, Sarah Newland, a valuable friend and approved minister, was concerned to visit the meetings of Friends throughout this island. R. and E. S. who knew her worth, her patience, and her trials, united in the general concurrence of her friends with her prospect. They did more: they yielded to a like impulse, and gave her their company and conveyance for travelling. It was an arduous undertaking; but in simplicity and singleness of heart they accomplished it.

In this journey, E. S's notes mention several friends then living, above eighty years of age. Amongst them, Joseph and Abigail Smithson, who, feeble and aged as they were, accompanied them some miles to the next meeting; John Wright of Ballinelay, who had built a new meeting-house at his own expence, and gave to Friends a lease of it, and of a piece of ground for a burial-place. She concludes, 4th of 8th month, 1779: "Got well to Ballitore, with humble thankfulness in our minds for the many favours and preservations afforded to us, and for the blessing of peace in the discharge of this office of friendship and duty."

During his absence from them, R. S. enlivened his family by his pleasant and instructive correspondence.

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER DEBORAH.

"Dungannon, 13th of 5th Month, 1779.

* * * "My dear child, I am going about espousing the concern and engagement of another, for the propagation of true religion, and sometimes feeling some degree of engagement in my own mind for the same. Thou mayst, therefore, expect that my letters should contain and convey some religious matter and tincture. But I seldom find any opportunities, of a religious kind, more deeply and solidly beneficial to my spirit, than those which I meet with in my seasons of private retirement at home. To this assiduous, diligent waiting for, and seeking after, the resurrection of a divine life, inwardly stirring in their own minds, I, above all things, recommend my dear children, as the surest way to be preserved, as well as to grow and thrive in religious experience.

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Lisburn, 18th of 5th Month, 1779.

* * * "There is a number of young people up and down, hopeful and promising, who do not prefer the tinsel vanities of this world, to the substantial comforts of Divine favour. They are not compatible together: the idol which the uncircumcised nature worships, cannot stand where the ark of the testimony dwells. We must choose which we would serve; and on making a right choice, and persevering therein, depends our everlasting happiness. Oh! my children, be wise, and make glad the hearts of your tender, affectionate father and mother, who

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watch over you, with solicitous care, for your good. Be humble and be meek, that you may be taught of the ways of the Lord, and your understanding guided in sound judgment. So will you be as happy as the condition of mortal man can be; in yourselves feeling renewedly the evidence, assurance, and earnest of a blessed immortality, and you will come up successors in the maintenance of the noblest cause which ever was, or ever will be upon earth. No honour equal to that of being the servants of Christ; no wages of such high value as he liberally bestows. The time hastens, with unremitting speed, which will decide on each of us. The past is irrevocable, the future uncertain; therefore, NOW is the acceptable time, and NOW is the opportunity which should be laid hold on, and diligently improved by us all, and each of us.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER MARY.

"Ballitore, 29th of 8th Month, 1779.

* * "Paul Kerma's family have been in a fever. The mother recovered; the father's state still doubtful; the son, their only child, the prop and comfort of the family, a fine, hopeful youth, has just now expired. Surely this is a vale of tears. We had need take care of health while we enjoy it: we ought to be exceedingly thankful for it, as well as for the tranquillity, public and domestic, and those necessaries and conveniences of life which we still enjoy." * *

Soon after the date of the above, the daughter to whom it was addressed was seized with a fever in Dublin, at the house of the kind family friends, Joseph and Elizabeth Pike, where she experienced such kindness as claimed and excited strong emotions of gratitude. Her mother and

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sister came to her, and attended her through a dangerous illness. Her anxious father on this occasion thus expresses himself.

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER DEBORAH.

"Ballitore, 16th of 9th Month, 1779.

"Thy letter, my dear Debby, be sure alarmed us yesterday, though couched in the most moderate terms. We hardly know sometimes how dear persons and things are to us, till we are in danger of losing them. * * I know, and at times feel the instability and uncertainty of visible enjoyments. I am sensible that we have not long to stay together on this earth. Our conflicts and troubles here will soon be over; and if, through the mercy of Divine Providence, we be preserved from evil while here, our souls will be centered in rest and peace hereafter. It therefore becomes us all to seek after resignation, and submission to that high and holy hand, which doth all things well. Perhaps, by this dispensation of affliction and pain, he means to reduce the creaturely part in our dear child; to purify her spirit, and prepare it to offer those sacrifices without blemish, with which he is always well pleased: sacrifices not kindled by the fire of her own lively imagination, nor offered upon an altar raised by any artificial tool; but those spiritual hymns, and songs, and melody, which are of divine origin, and still tend towards their original, ascending and descending, like Jacob's ladder, which had communication between earth and heaven.

"In the tenderest manner whisper in my dear child's ear, that I love her very dearly, and hope in due time to embrace her in my fond arms;—that the neighbours, and friends, and relations here are very inquisitive about her;—and that her speedy recovery is the subject of our earnest desires. It seems unnecessary for me to say further, while

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her tender and excellent mother is near. * * * I need not bid thee do all in thy power to keep up thy mother's spirits; but I charge thee, endeavour to support thy own.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Ballitore, 9th Month, 1779.

* * * "I am thankful that through all, and through all my own many infirmities, I have a place in the hearts of the generality of my friends; having been preserved from retaliating evil for evil, but still endeavouring to overcome evil with good. And I am thankful that, as to natural things, the little meal in the barrel, and the little oil in the cruise has not, through the favour of our great Benefactor, yet failed; nor is the spring of humble, and I trust, holy gratitude dried up in me, for the capital favour of such a wife and such children as I am blessed with; but, on the contrary, I may figuratively say, rivers of grateful tears run down my eyes for the same. If our dear Mary be restored to us, it will be a particular additional favour. * * *

"Remember me, in the most affectionate and grateful manner, to J. and E. Pike, whose house we trouble, not only as an inn but an hospital. I can do little in return for such manifold favours; but I have prayed that retribution may be made them for their kindness, by Him who has all power to bless.

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Ballitore, 1779.

"I rejoice, and partake, and join in the harmony which thou mentionest to subsist in our family. Each of us has the high fit, the low fit, and the cross fit; and if there be not mutual forbearance and condescension, we shall lose peace on earth. In music there are not only different chords and strings, but stops and pauses. Let us seek to be ordered and modulated by the soul of harmony, Divine love; and if we cannot go forward in service, and find our own minds not under present qualification to help others, let us stand still till we renewedly feel and know that good is present with us. Thus minding our stops and movings, the locking and unlocking of the key, which opens and none can shut, and shuts and none can open, we shall walk wisely and usefully in our several lots in life. * * * "R. S."

R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Ballitore, 26th of 9th Month, 1779.

* * "If thou and dear Mary were at home, I think we should all be very comfortable together, now our Debby is returned. I do not speak at random when I thus speak. I know wherein true comfort consists, and I know what an uncertain world we live in. I trust our dear Mary will have learned also, by the things which she has suffered, what is the greatest good—the good part; and that she will be enabled to dedicate her all, to consecrate every faculty, and devote the whole body of her affections, to Him who

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has been bountiful and gracious to her. Her duty, respect, and love, reflected back from Him, to those who have a right to claim them here, will then come with sweetest influence and acceptance.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 29th of 12th Month, 1779.

* * * "I have just received account of the death of my dearly beloved friend, Jane Watson, of Rathrush, who departed this life in great quietude, without sigh or groan, yesterday about noon. She was my very dear friend. I feel for her loss, but the situation of her health made her stay hardly desirable on her own account. Killconner is now 'emphatically poor.' * * * Sally is poorly in health—has hurt her constitution, I believe, by her dutiful, affectionate, tender, assiduous care of her excellent mother, for so long a time. * * *

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 26th of 2d Month, 1780.

"My dear Margaret,

"I received thine of the 18th, at my return from the quarterly meeting of Mountmellick. That meeting was large, and I think, as to instrumental help, favoured. James Gough and Mary Ridgway had, in my apprehension, good times. What a wonderful blessing to the church is a living ministry! and how precious a thing and admira-

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ble it is for a human creature to be qualified to speak in the name of the Lord! and for human nature to be influenced by a supernatural power! The frequency of such appearances among us, like those of the sun, moon, and stars, and the process of vegetation, by the familiarity, takes off from the astonishment; but still, great and marvellous are the works of the Almighty.

"R. S."

After spending eight years in Ballitore, in improving and pleasing society, the comforts of which were increased by the placidity and cheerfulness of his own temper, Samuel Carleton died, of a slow, but not very painful illness, in great love and sweetness of mind; thankful that he had been so long favoured with health, and not repining at the loss of it.

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Waterford, 20th of 3d Month, 1780.

* * * "It is well to be useful members of civil society, and to endeavour to provide well for our families, in whose society we enjoy many comforts; but the subordination of things is greatly wanting among many: primary considerations rank only as secondary, and secondary usurp the place of primary. The lip of truth has settled the order, which man has reversed in his conduct. Christ says, 'seek first the kingdom;' and assures, that necessary appurtenances and appendages shall be added. May you, my beloved children, united as you are in flesh, being united in a right spirit, seek first, principally, most earnestly, the favour of heaven, that you may happily be objects of divine notice and help. Solid, and arduous, and complicated are your duties and engagements; and you never can fulfil them acceptably to God and man, without

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the Lord's blessed mediation, guidance, and protection. I often desire it for you, in humble prostration, and trust that in like manner you seek it for yourselves. As you suffer the leaven of holiness and pure and undefiled religion, to operate upon and leaven your minds, you will infallibly do well.

"Should you unhappily forget what hand it is that feeds and supports you, and depend on your own sufficiency for preservation and prosperity, you are gone, my beloved children, and the joy of your father is gone with you: therefore, be ye humble, be watchful, be diligent in renewedly seeking and feeling after the evidence of divine favour and approbation upon your spirits, every day and every night, as you pass along, and as each day and night revolves; that so God Almighty may bless you, instruct and assist you to live to his honour, and to the honour of the great and high profession which we make among men. So be it.

"R. S."

In 1780, R. S. was again at the yearly meeting of London; and from that time to the end of his life, constantly attended that solemnity, with the exception of the year 1786, when he set his son at liberty to go thither. R. S. had made several valuable acquaintances, when he was in England in 1776, some of whom were young in years, with whom he maintained a correspondence. His friends and he rejoiced to meet: he was much comforted in their company. The hospitable house of J. E. was open to him and most of the friends from Ireland, who experienced great kindness from that meek-spirited, excellent friend, and his worthy wife and family. When he went to York, the vacuum left by the death of his uncle, seemed filled by the brotherly attentions of William Tuke, who, with his excellent wife and children, received him with true affec-

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tion. On his way to, and sometimes from London, his visits to Abiah Darby combined a variety of comforts: his cheerful and improving society was duly appreciated by those whose natural tastes and acquirements were similar; but far nearer were their spirits united, by the sweet influence of perfect goodness, which drew them to mingle together in rejoicing and in suffering. The venerable mother, her daughters, Mary, Sarah, and Deborah, (the devoted Deborah, a mother in Israel,) are all names dear to those who knew them; and here the repose of age, and the activity of youth, united to promote the love of the Creator, and the happiness of his creatures.

In this year his daughter Deborah accompanied him, previously to her marriage with Thomas Chandlee, of Athy, a small town six miles from Ballitore.

E. S. TO HER HUSBAND.

"Ballitore, 12th of 5th Month, 1780.

* * * "I observe thy excellent remarks concerning the kind protection of Him, who has been with us through life, and the good cause we have to trust in his mercy, who knows our hearts; and how sensible we are of our own inability to provide for, or preserve ourselves. And I hope our dear children will reap the advantage of the tender and unremitting concern of their affectionate father. If they do not, they must certainly have more to answer for than poor, neglected children, many of whom are to be met with, even in our own society; and I wish the parents of such might consider the great trust reposed in them, lest the burden of their negligence should be insupportable at last.

"E. S."

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R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Butler's Court, near Beaconsfield,
25th of 5th Month, 1780.

* * "The yearly meeting being over, I went to see Edmund Burke. Having given him notice of the hour of my intended visit, he had come from the House of Commons, and was ready, with his family, to receive me. The friendship, the freedom, the cordiality with which he and his embraced me, was rather more than might be expected from long love. I could not well avoid coming with him to this place, which is most beautiful, on a very large scale: the house, furniture, ornaments, conveniences, all in a grand style. Six hundred acres of land, woods, pleasure-grounds, gardens, green-house, &c. For my part, I stand astonished at the man and at his place of abode: a striking parallel may be drawn between them; they are sublime and beautiful indeed.

"I awoke early this morning, as usual, and was glad to find no condemnation; but, on the contrary, ability to put up fervent petitions, with much tenderness, on behalf of this luminary. * * *

"Dr. Fothergill moved, to my great satisfaction, to have the yearly meeting stationary, and not regulated by the anniversary of a moveable feast*. It is to be taken into consideration at the next sitting of that great and solemn assembly. * *

"R. S."

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* The time called Whitsuntide.

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FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Bristol, 10th of 6th Month, 1780.

* * * "There are dreadful accounts coming here daily from London, of an insurrection of many thousands of the populace; putting down Romish chapels, and breaking open prisons, and doing great damage to the persons, houses, and furniture of individuals, nobility, gentry, &c. Our friend, Edmund Burke, most happily (by the interposition, I trust, of Divine Providence) escaped out of their hands, for I suppose they had him a while in their power. He pleaded his own cause with the mad multitude; and the Controller of all things so overruled their wicked, desperate, furious spirits, that they let him go unhurt.

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Clonmel, 4th of 9th Month, 1780.

* * * "I venerate the name and character of an ambassador of Christ; and I also am disposed to think favourably of those whom, after long experience, I have deemed valuable friends: therefore, feeling little or nothing any way, I stand as it were neuter in my judgment, and find it best for me not even to give a liberty to thought, nor to meddle in other folk's matters. Our high and holy profession is a great house, built not for man, nor by man, but for God; and supernatural wisdom must qualify for servants and officers in this house, or it will be dishonoured, and the Master be displeased. Too much backwardness, and too much officiousness, are equally offensive. My desire

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is, my dear love, for us and for ours, whom I have many times found ability to dedicate to the service of this house, that the great Master of the family would instruct us to perform our several duties acceptably before him, if he should honour us with any of his commands; and if not, that he would be graciously pleased to preserve us from evil, walking in lowliness and simplicity, yet acceptably before him.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER SARAH.

"Clonmel, 7th of 9th Month, 1780.

* * * "It would not be grateful, in every sense of the word, to force Mary away with us: thou must learn resignation and patience. I hope it will not be long before you meet with joy; that joy and placid serenity which can only be had under the canopy of conscious innocence. The contrary beclouds the mind, and prevents any satisfaction arising from the most pleasing, natural gratifications. Conscious guilt gives every object, how agreeable soever in itself, a gloomy, sable hue: it damps, it depresses, it debases. By the mercy of our great and common benefactor, I hope and believe all my dear children are preserved, in a good measure, from any great mixture of this alloy. May the holy leaven have room to continue so to operate, that the whole lump may be sanctified; then the joy will be full. * * *

"This place is very agreeable; rendered still more so by the little prattling babes, among whom I stalk about, like a sort of patriarch, while they call me '*grandfaddy*,'

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and present me with their little offerings. Yet still home, and the dearest of all earthly objects attracts me home. I hope thy mother is satisfied with my stay, and that you all exert yourselves to make her comfortable, and my absence tolerable to her. She deserves every mark of duty, affection, respect, and attention from you. She also wants your assistance, and the defects of memory and recollection, and depredations of time, to be supplied and made up by your more youthful activity. * * The good dispositions of my children are the joy of my heart, and weigh it down with humble gratitude. The prospect which opens for my dear Debby is indeed highly pleasing and comfortable to me, as I have a peculiar regard for the young man, whom she has no cause to be ashamed to tell the people she designs to marry. It is also my long settled belief, that, if kind Providence grants this my dear child health, she will be a very loving, valuable wife—a meet help in every respect, both civil and religious. So that Thomas Chandlee will I hope be happy, as I really think he deserves to be, in domestic life. * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER DEBORAH.

"Clonmel, 8th of 9th Month, 1780.

* * "I am pleased thou hast got one step towards thy solemn engagement, I hope, well over. The benediction of our good old friend Robert Leckey was grateful to me also, as well as to thee. I hope you will often, both severally and unitedly, seek for the immediate descending of that blessing which maketh truly rich and adds

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no sorrow with it. The riches of this world, accumulated even by honest industry, without having the great Disposer of all things in view, and acting about the affairs of this life in His holy fear, are often the means of inexpressible perplexity and disquiet, sometimes of the most dreadful evils. Whereas a looking, a leaning, an humble dependance on Him that feeds the ravens, and in the concatenation of the events ordered by his Providence, caused the same ravens to feed his prophet, is the way to procure the divine blessing to be superadded, and prevents that sorrow which worketh death to the innocent, happy, composed life. But though I thus indulge a freedom of writing, I think I well know both your hearts, and that they are in that place where treasures of a far more noble kind than any this world can afford, are laid up for the poor in spirit, the simple and honest hearted, and those who think little of themselves, can say little for themselves, yet are diligent in waiting for ability to walk in that way which leads to life everlasting. We have, each of us, our foibles as men and women, and have each of us occasion to be industrious in watching unto prayer; that the droppings and distillings of good may fall upon our branches; strengthening and fructifying the holy plant, and destroying, by its sacred virtue and influence, or at least correcting, those frailties of the flesh, which, like messengers of Satan, are at times sent to buffet even those who are well minded, and in a good degree partakers of Divine regard and notice. * * * * If we neglect a proper care of our bodies, disorders will hurt them; if we omit to seek for spiritual nourishment, our souls will be in danger of perishing; and if we exercise not our reason, to cultivate and improve our natural understandings, to form us and our manners so as to be pleasing and profitable members of society, our spirits may, in our progress through life, contract dispo-

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sitions, which in course of time may be inveterate and hard to be removed; dispositions which will much disqualify us for filling our several departments in life with propriety, and with ease and satisfaction to ourselves and others. I write freely to thee, my dear child, because I love thee; because Divine Providence has favoured thee with a good understanding, both natural and spiritual; and because thou art now going to leave thy father's house, and to be the companion of a worthy, a sensible, and a religious man: therefore I would not be wanting on my part to do every thing in my power, in every respect, for thy happy and comfortable settlement; and having done my duty to the best of my poor abilities, leave the rest to our Almighty benefactor, whom I pray to bless you together, with every spiritual and temporal blessing, which his unerring wisdom sees best to indue you with. * * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Clonmel, 11th of 9th Month, 1780.

"My dear Abraham,

"Thy letter of 6th was and is indeed very grateful to me; it is such incense as (through the abundant mercy of our common gracious Benefactor) I was favoured with ability to offer to *my* father, and such as, through the continuation of the same mercy, I trust thou wilt know the pleasure of receiving from thy own offspring. It is remarkable how in the moral world, the crime of irreverence to parents is punished in its own kind, and the iniquity of the parents, in this line, visited on the chil-

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dren, from generation to generation. In all sins the crime begets its own punishment; but in this, the crime begets the punishment in its own likeness. By the unmerited kindness of Divine Providence I have experienced the contrary causes producing the contrary effects, in a similar manner. * *

"Thou wilt hear with pleasure from me a confirmation of thy sister Margaret's happiness here. When I say happiness, I do not mean it in the vague, superficial sense in which I frequently observe that term employed. I think her happy, because I think her good. And yet both these epithets are to be taken and used with a comparative limitation, and reference to human condition. She does us much honour, however, in this place, by her conduct as a member of civil and religious society: she is nursing a beautiful babe: she has reared two other fine children; and she is a true helpmate, in every sense, to a very worthy, honest, active man, who is an affectionate husband, a good father, and prosperous in business. I trust in the munificence of Heaven, which is graciously pleased to shower down its favours upon us who are unworthy of them, that we shall have the like grateful acknowledgments to make respecting our dear Debby: indeed, the sense of my obligations to our Almighty Benefactor, on account of my dear children, often humbles my heart, and weighs me down, as fruit-bearing branches, over-loaded, bend towards the parent earth, which supplies the nourishment to the tree. * *

"Though Lydia and I have not corresponded this time, yet I trust we are as epistles written in each other's hearts.

"I am, my dear Abraham's affectionate father,

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 1st of 12th Month, 1780.

* * "We took our final leave of our dear friend Robert Leckey, the 19th. He died the 22d ult. We had a favoured season with him, in which Sarah Newland ministered to him in a sweet and lively manner. I believe his spirit is happily at rest, after a long life of integrity, humility, fidelity to the testimony, benevolence, and humanity. His funeral was very large.

"R. S."

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CHAPTER V.

Letters written between the years 1781 and 1788, inclusive.

E. S. TO HER HUSBAND.

"Ballitore, 1781.

* * * "Though it was agreeable to get a letter from thee, yet thou mayst be sure it would have been much more so to have had thyself, if it had been right: if not, it is better for thee to be employed in the business of going about doing good. This I hope is the case, and if thou thinkest thou canst not do much more than assist and support the hands of our ancient friend, who may often be cast down through infirmities of body, and distress of mind, it must be doing good. Distress of mind thy honest heart is well used to, on account of the unfaithfulness of the professors of the unchangeable truth, which will remain so, though all men should forsake it. What remains to be done by the few who are concerned for the promotion thereof, is, to be watchful and humble, seeking to know what is required, and then honestly and simply performing it. This, I believe, is the way for the work of reformation to go forward, that is begun in many minds. The more we are reduced and brought into the littleness, (as thy father used to say,) and kept in it, the more helpful we shall be, as instruments in the hand of the Almighty, who can work by whom it pleaseth him to work. * *

"E. S."

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 7th of 1st Month, 1781.

* * "I suppose thy good man Samuel is by this time in Cork. I wish his honest mind may receive benefit there. Such breaking away, every now and then, from the cares and cumbers of this life, is very necessary and profitable to all who can compass it, and should be struggled and contended for by men of business. And not only at such seasons of general edification, do I wish you, dear children, to profit; but recommend, what I doubt not is at times your practice, often to cultivate at *home* a renewing of the baptism of truth in your own hearts; this tendering influence, this daily sacrifice of a broken and contrite spirit, will be acceptable to him who is the Author of every blessing, spiritual and temporal; and will be found to animate, refresh, and invigorate for the discharge of every duty of every kind. * * *

"We live in much comfort, amity, and satisfaction; and I hope some of us are not insensible of the great and capital favour it is that our domestic tranquillity is lengthened out. This is a favour that I am jealous too many do not properly estimate, and yet the complexion of the times is such, that it seems no way unlikely that the false rest, which many have settled in, will be disturbed; and then the worth of peace, and tranquillity, and ease, and plenty, will be known by the want of them. Divine Providence, indeed, is all-sufficient to protect and deliver; he is good and gracious, slow to anger, and long-suffering, else it would seem that these poor islands would be, as it were, swallowed up by such combined hosts of foes. I

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say He is merciful and all-sufficient, yet it is not amiss for us to commune together on the way, concerning these things; and doubtless is acceptable to our great Preserver, when in a right spirit we commemorate his benefits.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER MARY.

"Tottenham, 14th of 6th Month, 1781.

* * * "_____ is a sprightly, sensible woman; but would suit my taste much better, if more of the diffident, the humble, the simple entered into her composition. And even true genius and literary accomplishments receive a softness and lustre from these qualities, highly ornamental. I hope I am not apt to force the subject of religion into conversation; (like poor Saul, who *would* have the prophet conjured up for him;) but let advanced age, experience, and parental affection say, religion, my dear child, is the safety, the happiness, the glory of human nature. By its sanctifying virtue, natural and improved abilities are kept in due subjection, regulated and directed to useful purposes: by this we have counsel and wisdom in dubious and intricate concerns; by this we have resource and consolation in distress; and by this we have (the greatest of all favours) the evidence, the assurance, the earnest of a happy immortality. Aspire after the knowledge of it, my dear child: with all thy acquirements, endeavour to acquire this. Remember Moses, who was exceeding fair, who had the education of a court to polish his manners, who was wise in all the learning of the Egyptians, and whose *poetical talents* are left on record in his song; yet had he given the preference to these quali-

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ties in his heart, he never would have been the leader of the Lord's people through the Red Sea and the wilderness; but he chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. So though no man knows where the visible part of him was buried, yet his memory lives, and preaches *loudly* to us, to this day. * * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER SARAH.

Newport Pagnel, 18th of 6th Month, 1781.

* * "Where there is not the salt of religion, to me company is exceedingly insipid. If we be truly enamoured with the great object of our entire love, we shall be sick of the conversation of those who are so far from being tinctured in like manner. * * That which deserves the name of Christian friendship, (or fellowship,) which is gendered and nourished by divine love, cannot subsist between persons of such opposite spirits. But, my dear child, if through the mercy of the Almighty, (for there we are to depend, having not the least merit of our own,) if through his condescending mercy, we are happily preserved, having that eye open which sees a beauty in the most excellent truth, the beauty of holiness; if through the same mercy we suffer our affections to be separated from earthly and raised to aspire after heavenly enjoyments; as we thus take firm root in the life of religion, we shall grow in the branches; and in due season put out leaves, and bring forth fruit, which may convey healing virtue and food to others. So men and women become as 'Saviours on Mount Zion;' but consider, this is not an

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unstable, slippery footing, but Mount Zion which will never be moved. There is no steady, profitable progress made in a journey, if we be ever and anon halting, loitering, standing, forgetting what we are about, or, even if we make some advances forward, and yet suffer ourselves again to be drawn, as much, or perhaps more, in a retrograde direction. Such a conduct is dangerous; no comfortable composure abides with us on the way, and the night may overtake us, before we have completed the labour of the day.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 4th of 7th Month, 1781.

"My dear Margaret,

"Through the benignity of gracious Providence still extended to thy poor father, I can again salute thee from my own home, that comfortable home, which he has allotted me, among the sweets of domestic life; and which I reached on the 2d instant, under a tender sense of his mercies. Indeed, his kindness has been very great to me in this last excursion, reproving, instructing, encouraging, sustaining, and preserving; giving me favour amongst his favourites, whereby I witnessed the renewal of former amities, in a manner such as I would wish, and the creation of new ones. * * Joshua Pim told me in Dublin that his mother continued better. I was greatly satisfied with her company. The feeling manner in which she spoke of the inward comfort she had experienced, I thought ministered life to my spirit, and I sate with pleasure under the distillation of her speech, as under the dropping of Gospel rain. Behold, my dear child, the

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Omnipotent Friend, whose support is sufficient for every trial, and who is near to help in the deepest affliction. Who would not by all means assiduously cultivate such patronage?

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Dublin, 1st of 11th Month, 1781.

"DEAR ABRAHAM,

"We got well and in good time hither. I hope this will find you also in good plight. Storms and cross winds will sometimes discompose us on this sea; and there is also a danger from the becalmed, indifferent state of mind. To have one at the helm, that can not only steer the vessel safe, but command the winds and waves, is a great acquisition. We should, with the eye of prudence, keep a sharp look-out, that no hidden rocks or shelves be in the way; but our dependence must be on the pilot, and to him we must submit the guidance, or we shall not be safe. For my part, I have been much tossed and agitated of late, on various accounts. The hemisphere looks cloudy, and neither sun, moon, nor stars appear. But I strive to get 'right onward.' You, my beloved children, are a great comfort to me, and, as you do well, you will contribute much to my happiness. Your task allotted in life is arduous and complex; you will very much want (and I hope you are truly sensible that you want) Divine Wisdom for your guide, Divine Providence for your protector, and Divine Power to mediate for you. From a sense of our own insufficiency arises a cry for

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help; and in proportion to our sensibility and distress, that cry penetrates the holy ear with effectual importunity. * * * The full, the self-sufficient, as they ask not, so they receive not; as they do not feel themselves poor, they neither labour nor beg. The Lord's poor are fed at his gate, but the rich and the full are sent empty away.

"I very freely and readily accept of our Lydia's apology for not writing to me: I know the source of her backwardness, and it is among the many things which rivet my affection to her. She is herself an epistle written in my heart, which I often read with delight.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON-IN-LAW G——.

"Ballitore, 18th of 12th Month, 1781.

* * * "I would not be wanting to myself and family in taking necessary steps for the recovery of my money, according to the best of my understanding, and the advice of my judicious friends; but I find that suffering my mind to be too much occupied in contemplation about these matters, hurts and unfits it for better things. I acknowledge I am not wise in my generation about them; I am sensible of it, (as also that it is a defect, and not any merit in me,) and therefore I apply, when I can, to Him who has all power in heaven and on earth, and without whose permission such events do not happen, that he will be pleased to mediate in my affairs, and that all things (what the world calls good and evil) may work together for the essential, substantial good of me and mine. In the active season of life, diligence in business, within the limitation of truth, is not only allowable, but has the sanction of apostolic precept. 'Provide things

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honest (i. e. decent) in the sight of all men.' And, 'if any man provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.' I often look back with a pleasing recollection to the industrious part of my past life, in which I in some measure 'exercised myself to have a conscience void of offence towards God, and towards men.' My care and industry were blessed with competence; and if this now, in the decline of life, be diminished, I hope that, through the same blessing, a competence will still remain.

"R. S."

E. S. TO HER DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 18th of 1st Month, 1782.

"My dear Margaret,

"Thy favouring me with the *first* letter after thy confinement I take as a mark of great kindness and affection, and I fear I shall make thee but a poor return for it; for really this dismal news (the shipwreck of Edith Lovell and Joseph Sparrow) has affected me so much, that it is seldom out of my thoughts while awake. Remember, we cannot pretend to judge for what cause it was permitted. Edith was a near and dear friend, in the prime of life for public service, a humble, devoted servant, the mother of a number of small children, whom she appeared to be qualified to educate in the way that they should go. Our dear Joseph, reared with care, and arrived at man's estate, a dutiful and helpful son, an affectionate brother, a kind, sincere friend, an example of sobriety and virtue, and likely to be of extensive service in the society. How can we then but admire why such should come to an untimely end? Yet, as we are short-sighted, and cannot penetrate into futurity, it may

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be ordered so in unerring wisdom, that they should be taken from the troubles and dangerous temptations we, who remain, are subject to while here. May their near friends and connexions be supported under so great a a trial. My mind has been much affected with sympathy for his distressed mother, and I have feared it might cost her her life; as he was not only her dear, affectionate son, but also, I suppose, her friend and counsellor. I wish much for her, that she may endeavour to keep her mind as *still* as possible, with her eye to Him who knows best what to appoint for us in tender mercy, to the purifying our spirits, in order that they may be fit to join the number of those who live to praise and glorify his great name, in a habitation eternal in the heavens.

"I observe thy wise and prudent remarks concerning the education of thy dear little ones, thy charge being now increased. I think what thou mentionedst is just, that to be led and governed ourselves by best wisdom, can alone qualify us to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and we had need keep close to this assistance, as we are frail, and our natural part ready to interfere. * * *

"E. S."

R. S. TO JOHN THORPE.

"Ballitore, 24th of 2d Month, 1782.

"I have some faint remembrance that, when I had the pleasure of thy company, we conversed a little about meetings for discipline. The church should edify itself in love, and when the most active and zealous members of a meeting are collected together, there is seasonable opportunity for every one to exercise their several gifts to edification, and by thus giving they may know an increase. The discipline is a branch from the same stock

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as the ministry, and by long experience has been found to be exceedingly useful in the conservation of our religious society. I need not enumerate to thee its many advantages. The members of the church-militant are still coming on and going off the stage of action: there must be a succession of clean hands to handle the discipline, and there must be some time in learning, that they may have skill in the work; so that those who are already qualified should be present, ready, and apt to teach. The conferences also in monthly meetings, among ministers and elders, should (according to my best feeling) be diligently kept up: these should be holy convocations, solemn meetings. Those of this class, casting down their crowns before Him 'who is the head of all principality and power,' may, under his blessed influence, as iron sharpens iron, and diamond cuts diamond, be made instrumental of help to one another, and consequently of help to the monthly meeting at large."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——

"Ballitore, 11th of 8th Month, 1782.

"The harvest of the world and the harvest of the church, conspire to occupy our attention. For my part, I think I am of little use in either department; but in the latter I dare not (nor am I willing) to withhold any little assistance which I am capable of giving. In allusion to such harvest-work, or works of agriculture, our Saviour saith, 'No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.' I wish, for myself, and those connected with me, to seek first this kingdom. The refuse of our time and our talents will not be accepted. Whole burnt-sacrifices, and victims without

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blemish, are the acceptable offerings: the halt, and the lame, and that which died of itself will not do.

"13th. Thy letter was most acceptable: it comforted and cheered us, to find thee so easy, happy, and tranquil. I was thankful for it, and enabled to make a grateful offering on thy account. Surely, great are my obligations to Divine Providence, for many favours; but in an especial manner for such a wife and such children as I am blest with. The connexions also of my children having been formed (I trust) under heavenly direction, are a source of pleasing reflection and satisfaction to me. I wish you all to trust in the Divine disposal, and not *lean* (not to be biassed by the will of the creature, or its plausible, fallacious prospects) to your own understanding. He that sitteth in heaven 'consults on the sum of things,'—takes the whole, past, present, and future, into one view; He is therefore the best and only sure counsellor.

"17th of ——— No doubt thou wast pleased with the opportunity of being personally acquainted with thy new sister Sarah Robert Grubb. I hope the alliance between you will get the best, the purest, the strongest cement. But if we would build a firm wall, we must not hurry it up too fast: we must go on gradually, and allow the cement time to dry. It is good to let truth create our friendships, guide us to the objects, order us as to the growth, and limit us as to the degree. Truth should be the alpha and omega of these intimacies, or they will not be permanent. Another thing. As best wisdom dwells with prudence, however near your union may be with one another, it is not well to let it be too publicly manifest: it may raise jealousy in others, cause invidious reflections, and be productive of many inconveniences. Taking these little hints along with you, may you love one another most cordially, say I, and may the Divine blessing sanctify your love!

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Clonmel, 8th of 10th Month. 1782.

* * "Clouds filled with gospel rain, wafted along by the Divine Spirit, compressed by the Almighty hand, and discharging themselves on the people, is the perfection of instrumental help. Yet to be looking too earnestly at these clouds, and watching which way the wind (the spirit) is driving them, is not the way for us to profit. 'He that observeth the wind shall not sow, and he that regardeth clouds shall not reap.' * * We have abundant cause to rely on that bountiful and gracious hand, and to trust in that source of supply that has never yet failed. Seek *first* the kingdom, was the precept of the Great Master:—*first*, in the early part of life:—*first*, as the object of greatest value:—*first*, as requiring the most diligent attention and pursuit. This being, through heavenly help, put in practice, there is no doubt but other less essential, yet necessary things will be added. Time is short and fleeting. A little will suffice for our quick passage. One thing (as our Lord told Mary) is needful, absolutely needful: may we happily choose, and be preserved to persevere in our predilection for that good part, which is unmixedly good, which makes truly rich, and is free from the appendages of worldly sorrow.

"There is an infinite variety in the spiritual, as in the the temporal system; and in this variety is much of the beauty of the inward as well as outward creation. Numberless are the gifts and graces which are in the heavenly

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storehouse, all good and all perfect; and these would doubtless be liberally dispersed to the members of the visible church of Christ, were the ground of their hearts prepared and made ready for the reception of them: but an enemy has so far prevailed, that these gifts are withheld, and many posts and stations in the house of God are vacant, to the tarnishing of the splendour, and deranging the comely and excellent order of the house. And too frequently, when gifts have been bestowed, they become sullied by a creaturely mixture; something, which though plausible and subtle, is born of the flesh, and profiteth nothing in religion. There is often an affectation and imitation of the gift or manner of others. This is a great error in judgment; for every body would certainly shine most by exercising his own gift, and most effectually contribute to general service; but to despise one's own and covet another's, is (like the dog and the shadow in the fable) the way to lose the substance. The variety of gifts, like the variety of chords in David's harp, constitutes the harmony, more sublime and beautiful than a dull monotony.

"R. S."

R. S. TO SARAH ROBERT GRUBB.

"Ballitore, 24th of 12th Month, 1782.

"My dear Cousin,

"Having on the 22d instant received the two enclosed letters to forward, it has been a stimulus to me to rise early this morning, to accompany them, like a guide to travelling English friends. I remembered as I lay in bed, that I was in debt for a long, instructive, affectionate, obliging epistle of thine, to which I have no

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sort of expectation of making any thing like an adequate return; neither have I, that I know of, such emulation about me. Honest friends, in entertaining one another, should not vie in elegance and superfluity, but simply and cordially bring out the best they happen to have in the house, for their guests; and though the fare may seem mean, yet if it be sound and savoury, and served up by clean hands, there is no reason to be ashamed of it. It is the affecting to appear something above our abilities that renders us contemptible, and which, if persisted in, will be in danger of making us bankrupts. But why these strictures? They have no pointed meaning, my dear cousin: they are general observations. I hope and believe we are both pretty clear of affectation, and superfluity, and ostentation, though unintentionally I fell on this subject. Love and unity, I trust, subsist between us; and if admonition was necessary to be imparted, I also trust we should receive it from each other, without having recourse to any oblique insinuations. * * *. They call our dwelling the *Retreat*. It is indeed so in some respects; but annoyances of one sort or other will break in. Flies are most troublesome in the shade. To keep low and humble, to step cautiously and feelingly, to watch diligently over the movements in our own minds, to wait for that baptizing virtue which makes and preserves sweet and clean, to be as good servants, ready for every occasional duty which may be unexpectedly required: this is the state we desire to be found in, and wish it was more our experience. But we are poor, and desire the prayers and sympathy of our dear friends, to whom we are united in the fellowship of suffering. * * * Accept of all our dear love, which indeed thou art in full possession of. Whenever thou findest leisure and freedom to favour me with a line, be sure it will be very acceptable to me. If thou hast been at the province meeting of Cork, send me the history of it.

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Julius Cæsar fought the battles, and recorded the narrative of them, with the same hand.

"I am, my dear cousin, thine, very affectionately,

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 10th of 1st Month, 1783.

"I am obliged to my dear cousin for her kind, confidential letter. Every communication I have with thee, I think, rivets thee more closely to me. I find thy excursion to Cork has been productive of some uneasiness to thee. What then? It may have been, notwithstanding, a profitable journey. If thy foot slipped, and the inward monitor was near to reprove, and thou hast been healed by his stripes, there bound thy reflections: the past is irrecoverable; kiss the rod in all humility, and see and be a good child next time. I say again, thy welfare is near my heart, and my desire is, that neither heights, nor depths, things present, nor yet to come, may be able to separate thee (who art separated to the Gospel) from the love of God, and an entire, unreserved dedication of all thy faculties, in nothingness of self, to the cause of Christ. Our province meeting, lately held at Castledermot, was to me satisfactory. As to the preaching, it was according to the complexion of the time, a day of rebuke; but, for my own part, I rejoiced in having my own spirit rinsed and cleansed by the baptizing power of truth. Several of the servants ministered to us, all well, for aught I know; but Mary Ridgway, that piece of beaten gold, beaten by the hammer of affliction, was peculiarly honoured among her brethren. * * *

"I very much accord with thee in sentiment, on pe-

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rusing the weighty contents of thy last. I rejoice in thy diffidence, and in thy sense of the precariousness of thy standing. I observe thy wise distinction between the strength which is inherent in the constraining mission, and the occasional capacity which may now and then be witnessed, in the freedom of a visit to one's kindred. I think, till this time, when I am writing, I never understood the force of that passage relating to Gideon: 'Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel.' And this might was: 'Have not I sent thee?' Be cheered, my dear friend, and look upward: I make no doubt but heavenly help and divine favour are near thee. Read and apply the three first verses in the 6th chapter of Hosea. Thou broughtest a part of them to my remembrance. Thou hast not only my love, but the love of all my house. Remember us dearly to thy husband; to thy worthy brother and sister, where you at present quarter; and be assured I am, in sympathy,

Thy truly affectionate friend and kinsman,

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"Dublin, 22d of 2d Month, 1783.

* * "It was a good day to thee, when thou wast solemnly and publicly united to our beloved Lydia. I am a witness that the power of an endless life presided on that day. May it be your frequent employment to wait for the renewing of that power to your spirits. Divine love is the great bond of our religious society, which pervades every living member of the body, and joins all together in an holy union. I doubt not but you experience this at times, to cement you to one another, and to all the living.

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"I wish you health and prosperity, and every blessing; but if He who has you, I trust, under his care and keeping, sees meet to chasten with the stripes of affliction, may you be so instructed by the dispensations allotted, that you may be enabled each to say: 'Not my will, but thine be done!' My heart is often engaged for you, with tender solicitude. Your track of life is an arduous path; thick sown with a variety of trials, probations, and perplexities, and difficulties: may Solomon's wise choice be yours, and may you happily obtain substantial wisdom to direct, and substantial help and comfort to confirm your steps, and strengthen you in your way.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER MARY,

Concerning his danger on ship-board, coming from England with John Pemberton and William Mathews.

"Athy, 23d of 8th Month, 1783.

* * "I had just lain down for the night, when an everlasting night threatened the visible part of me. The ship struck against a bank, which they called the Kish, near the place where the Indiaman, they said, struck some months ago, when near one thousand, I heard, perished. She struck a second and a third time: it was awful! I thought of poor Edith Lovel and Joseph Sparrow, and knew not but their fate would have been ours. For a few minutes I was held in anxious suspense, but preserved from abject fear: in a few minutes she floated again, and we got off. This was a preservation to be commemorated with humble gratitude!"

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R. S. TO S. R. G.

"Ballitore, 25th of 11th Month, 1783.

* * "My wife, son, and daughters Lydia, Mary, Sarah, and I, attended our last half-year's meeting. It was large, the season of the year and the state of our religious society considered. Favour was, I think, in a good degree extended, to those whose lot it was to burn incense in the order of their course, who I believe generally moved in harmonious labour. John Pemberton and William Mathews were there. John seems concerned to have meetings in places where no friends reside: William is not so much in that line. Several friends are in sentiment that it would be full as well if they travelled separately from each other. They have each acceptable service here. Our dear friend, Mary Ridgway, is an opulent merchant in this traffic, and still increasing, I think, in wealth: when she was less substantially rich, she made greater show; now that her substance is increased, she makes less display of it. I honour and admire, as well as esteem and love, the woman. Her life is a striking lesson, how effectual divine support is, under the most poignant sufferings. * * *

"My wife and children join me in the salutation of dear love to you all. Hoping, waiting, expecting, longing for thy promised packet, I remain, as patiently as I can, thy truly affectionate kinsman,

"R. S."

E. S. TO HER HUSBAND.

"Ballitore, 5th of 1st Month, 1784.

* * * "It gives me satisfaction that thou feelest support, and a belief that thou art in thy place. I am wil-

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ling to give up thy company, (which is very desirable to us,) for the promotion of righteousness, as I appear now to be of very little use but to stick by the stuff, and keep our outward things together as well as I can. It is a strength and comfort to those who are going off the stage of action, to hear of those who are in the prime of life for service in the church, devoting themselves to it; and particularly those of one's own family. I wish Samuel and Margaret's establishment in every good word and work; and apprehend the way to be so, is to keep low and humbly dependant on that all-sufficient Power, which can enable the striplings, like David, to make war successfully against the Philistine nature, both in themselves and others, steadily labouring that self may be of no reputation; and then I doubt not but they will be prosperous and useful in their generation, and have wisdom afforded them to train up their dear children, both by example and precept, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

"E. S."

R. S. TO J. T.

"Ballitore, 14th of 3d Month, 1784.

"To be in a state of acceptance with our Creator, appears to me to be the great object at which we should all aim. As to myself, the burden of my petition is much of late for Divine protection and Divine direction: the cause of Christianity, which we profess to maintain, is of all things most noble and most important. I have lived now to the time of the decline of life, and have done little or nothing in the promotion of this cause. I much desire, at times, that the small residue of my days may be spent under *more* of the influence of heavenly wisdom; that I

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may be enabled to act my future part *more* acceptably—show forth a *more* striking example of what it is to put on Christ, and leave conspicuous and safe way-marks to the succeeding generation.

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER CHANDLEE.

"Foston, 7th of 7th Month, 1784.

"My dear Deborah,

"Having some leisure on my hands at this place, I thought I would devote some part of it to thee, well knowing thy affectionate regard and attention to thy near connexions, and the low opinion which thou entertainest of thyself. These are qualities which never fail of preserving and procuring the love and esteem of our friends, and these I think thou possessest in a great degree. * *

"May I and all mine dwell low in humble fear, feeling daily after a sense of the operation of truth in our minds, that we may not be as those who live as without God in the world; but, witnessing from season to season, in this manner, a renewal of our acquaintance with that which is good, may be supported and enabled to run with patience the race which is set before us respectively. In this world we shall, and must have trouble: in the evidence of Divine approbation alone is true peace. * *

"Mary particularly piques herself on being present at the yearly meeting of London, where the first women's yearly meeting was established. * * Remember us very affectionately to thy husband. I much desire your welfare and happiness, and that it may please Divine Pro-

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vidence to take you and your little family, and keep you under his continued gracious care.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Foston, 8th of 7th Month, 1784.

* * "I am often, I think, favoured with a capacity to recommend me and mine to the protection of Omnipotence; and I humbly trust the contrite petition and wrestling travail of spirit is graciously heard and answered. Indeed, if merciful help and regard were not renewedly extended to us, what would become of us in any sense or respect? But he who is Lord of heaven and earth, and holds spiritual and temporal blessings in his hand, perfectly knows and sees what we stand in need of, and what is best and most suitable for us. If, by his holy help and special grace, we be happily preserved in his fear, walking acceptably before him, we shall do well, and want no good thing. His spirit bearing witness with our spirits that we please him, will bear us up above the little contingencies which are apt to perplex and annoy us, as well as above the floods of temptation and tribulation, which seem at times ready to swallow us up. And if the counsel of perfect, unerring wisdom be, that any shall be serviceable in his hand, for promoting the great cause of pure and undefiled religion upon earth, such may assuredly expect a double portion (the portion of an eldest son) of trials and temptations, and siftings, and exercises, in order to peculiar winnowing, and purging, and pruning, and to a preparation and qualification, experimentally, to minister to the various states of others.

"I had satisfaction in attending the yearly meeting. It

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was remarkable for the establishment of a women's yearly meeting, which I hope will, in a course of time, and in the order of its course, prove of service in our religious society. The men seem to have slept a long time over this matter; but now, like the rib which was taken out of Adam's side *while he slept*, I hope it will, in process of time, become a true help-meet to the man in the discipline of the church. * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Colebrook Dale, 4th of 8th Month, 1784.

* * "This is the most extraordinary place I ever was in: there is such a mixture of religion and worldly business, human learning and Christian simplicity, among the people; such a native, wild irregularity, subdued and cultivated by art and opulence, about the place. * *

"I have my ups and downs as usual; but my heart is never so comfortable, and I am never so well satisfied with myself, as when I am in the deeps, with the billows passing over my head, engaged in a travail of spirit for the promotion of Christianity, and the welfare of mankind. I sometimes venture, in private, to express something of my fresh feelings, and to bring out of the store-house things that have been reposited there, and are presently brought to hand; but my cry is for humility and wisdom, that I may be mercifully preserved myself from falling, and that I may not be tempted to exceed the life and authority of truth. I know nothing more excellent, nor more desirable, than the living virtue of it qualifying our spirits, and enabling to move in the Lord's work. I wish it, above all

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things, for ourselves: I wish it, above all things, for our children; that they, as well as we, may surrender themselves at the Great Captain's discretion, make no terms of capitulation in yielding up the citadel of their hearts, only that life, spiritual life, may be granted them—that they may be taken into the service of their Lord. There is no other service which is attended with such advantages: there is safety and protection in it, from the usurpation of other lords which have had dominion; there is maintenance, clothing, and pay; there is honour, dignity, and immortal glory: all these blessed privileges and rewards are involved in this important cause. I believe our children are not insensible of this, and I heartily desire that their obedience in all things may keep pace with the knowledge communicated to them. 'Hear and obey, and your souls shall live,' is worthy of all acceptation. First, to be diligent in waiting, in order to hear the still small voice, which is of private interpretation to our several states individually; next, to obey in submission and faithfulness the discoveries of the Divine will, in the jots and tittles, as well as the weightier parts of the law—in what concerns ourselves, as well as in our relative duties to others: so shall we be favoured with the inspiration of that exhilarating breath of life, which makes and preserves us living souls. * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO JOHN THORP.

"Ballitore, 21st of 9th Month, 1784.

"How little, how nothing is at our command! However, it is our duty to endeavour to be always ready, that if a ministering angel of good has in charge to impart any to us, we may be found in a state capable of receiving it; and

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if the prince of this world should also come with his temptations, that he may be baffled in his designs. One and the same state is necessary in both cases—a state of emptiness, nothingness, and abasement of self. This is our centre; and as each of us industriously acts within his proper circle, and fulfils his reasonable duty, we shall know (I believe) an extension of the cord of divine love and authority, an increase of holy zeal and ability, and a wide field of labour. For my part, I never expect to be worth calling any thing: I am satisfied to be nothing, so I be but preserved from any thing that is evil; but I want thee, and such as thee, to be what you ought to be, or, in other words, what the Master would have you to be. Now I believe it is the Master's will, that his servants shall be more and more acquainted with his good pleasure, and the ministers of his word, as burning and shining lights. I am indeed sometimes astonished at the beauty and excellence delegated to some of this class, though, like the planets, they have no light of their own—none but as they derive it from the sun of righteousness. And yet how liable are even such to become dim, and suffer eclipse, 'shorn of their beams,' and while they are preaching in words to others, to become castaways themselves. So that 'watch and pray' remain to be the words of counsel and indispensable injunction to all, without respect of persons.

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 20th of 8th Month, 1785.

* * "Health is an extraordinary favour: I think it is wonderful that the machines of our bodies should go such a length of time without being out of order, considering the complicated variety, and minuteness and delicacy of

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the organs which compose them. May we be enabled acceptably to acknowledge, and often return due homage for the manifold mercies which we receive ourselves, and also to intercede for divine protection and relief, to be extended to others in distress and affliction of body and mind! I doubt not thy frequent visits to such: they are more becoming a Christian society—more befitting the disciples of Christ to be exercised in, than insipid, formal, cursory visits of show and ceremony, where light, superficial talk, and an impertinent busying in other people's matters is indulged. This is not the intercourse which the Lord has chosen for his people, but that they should seek to visit one another in his name, under the influence of his pure power, and therein either keep to an inward travail of spirit for the arising of it, or, in a proper freedom, maintain a conversation savoury and edifying. This, I apprehend, is the way to grow in service. Time is short, and is minutely to be accounted for. The work we are called to, the spreading of the holy principle of Christianity among men, is awfully important: where is the room then for idleness, supineness, and indifference, among those who are called to be standard-bearers among the people? * *

"Our poor nation is much destitute of instrumental help, in many places. A living, sound ministry, accompanied and corroborated by irreproachable, wise, and religious conduct and conversation, is a capital favour to the churches. * * It behoves those who sit as judges, to *feel* their way in determining concerning appearances in this line. I have met with variety of opinions in these cases, but I ever found it safest for me, where I could *feel* nothing, to remain detached and single, and to be cautious of either encouraging or discouraging, till I had an evidence as clear as might be expected in the matter. And here, and in many occasional affairs arising among us as a religious society, appears the necessity of divine wisdom illuminating our

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understandings, and qualifying us to judge right judgment. A sense of this has, at times, much humbled and prostrated my spirit, with desire that whatever little, or however little I might be, I might be what the Master would have me to be—I might be right. * * *.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER SARAH.

"Ballitore, 12th of 1st Month, 1786.

* * * "The intelligence received of the two Margarets is very pleasing, and, I hope, causes grateful sensations. Even thy scraps of paper, bearing that impression, are welcome messengers. It puts me in mind of the ancient Romans, who were so exceedingly fond of Augustus Cæsar, in the latter part of his reign, that it is said, I think, in their ordinary letters on business or friendship, they generally subjoined, 'the emperor is well.' * *

"I am glad thou hast had this season of sojourn in Clonmel. I hope it will have rivetted still more closely the connexion between thee and thy brother's house; also between thee and divers dear, valuable friends and relations, in that place. I rejoice to see my children delight in the company of the worthy and the good: it is a sign that the dispositions and inclinations of the inward man, are rightly modelled and turned: such intimacies add strength to strength, they are safe, they are salutary, they are honourable; but a confederacy with the raw, the irreligious, those who are in the spirit of the world, and enemies to the cross of Christ, manifests unsoundness in the spiritual constitution, by the vitiated taste of desiring and relishing food

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that is not fresh, plain, and wholesome! 'Tis dangerous, and destructive to the tender, precious, life.

"R. S."

R. S. TO JOSEPH AND SARAH POOLE,

On the death of their son, who died of the small-pox, 12th month, 1785, aged sixteen.

"Ballitore, 12th of 1st Month, 1786.

"MY DEAR FRIENDS,

"Having heard of the great trial which you have undergone, in the privation of your fine, hopeful son, I had a mind to manifest my remembrance of you in your affliction, by sending you a few lines; although I seem to myself in a situation unqualified to administer any good, and I know not what I could say on the occasion, which reason and religion have not already suggested to you. Both these heavenly gifts speak the same thing: they tell you that there are many reflections which would tend to mitigate your grief, and to alleviate the burden of your sorrow. You had, I believe, much satisfaction and comfort in your son, when he was spared to you: you extracted many gratifications from his society: for a number of years he helped to make so much of your pilgrimage through life more tolerable and pleasing to you. It proved to be consistent with a wisdom, far superior to our finite views and fallacious prospects, to remove him, at his appointed time, from this earth. He had been preserved, even in the slippery paths of youth, from the evils that are in the world. He had led such a life as rendered him fit for the awful change. * * * You had comfort in the life, and you have hope in the death of your son.

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May it be the will of our great Creator, to sanctify this affliction to you, and effectually support your spirits under it; that when he gives, and when he takes away, you may be enabled to bless his name, and, like obedient children, humbly and resignedly submit to all the dispensations allotted, whether joyous or grievous.

"My wife and children join in dear love to you both, with your truly affectionate friend,

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER SARAH.

"Ballitore, 2d of 4th Month, 1786.

* * * "Letters from my absent, distant children, do me good. The observation of their good dispositions often weighs my mind down in humble gratitude to the author of all good; and yet, without keeping up the watch; without seeking to be enabled to offer the daily sacrifice in the temple; without dying daily to self, and mortifying the carnal will; without keeping low and humble, and in a state of absolute dependance on all-sufficient and only-sufficient help; without this we all, both parents and children, shall make nothing out in a religious way: we shall be but as a door on its hinges, opening and shutting, and remaining in the same place; we shall be mere formal, lukewarm professors of the faith of Christ, but never rightly-spirited, noble advocates in his cause.

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 1786.

* * * "It is well to be made rightly sensible, that to have our expectation from the creature is vain and uncertain; that frailty and disappointment are the characteristics of visible things, and that that which is invisible and eternal, can alone satisfy the longings of an immortal spirit. I had a letter lately from William Mathews, from London. He seems to think well of the person who came over to London, from the people who seem to be under some degree of convincement in France. He likewise mentions a considerable convincement in North America. Known to the Almighty Author of all good, are his own wise and gracious purposes: how near or how far off is the time for a more general spreading of the light of Christianity, is among the secret things which it belongs not to us to investigate. Neither know we as yet how this matter will turn out; whether it be a clear and open vision that these persons are favoured with, and whether faithfulness and stability will be added to right knowledge: but of this we may be certain, that truth is truth, whether men receive it or reject it; and that no cause ever did, or ever will exist, more worthy of the entire dedication and devotion of all the faculties of the human mind. * *

"I have been treated with my grandson's second letter. I think he bids fair for being a good scribe. I felicitate him on his beginning to learn French, and wish him good speed in it. I observe many get a little superficial smattering in that language and soon lose it: I wish it may not be the case with Abraham. This is his season of life for learning languages, and those things which chiefly occupy the memory. This faculty is now in perfection with him, and should be fully employed: it is compared to an arch,

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which is strengthened by the weight laid upon it. In a few years the memory will rather decline, and the judgment ripen, when arithmetic and mathematics will be in season. I know it is the fashion with many, who do not mean to send their sons to universities, to explode and decry Latin as an useless acquisition: it may, perhaps, be unprofitable in this sense, that it may bring them in no money; the concerns of civil life may be transacted quite as well without it; the finest productions in that language are translated into the mother tongue. French is more essential to accomplish the gentleman, to accommodate the traveller, and is the most universal vehicle of verbal communication; but Latin has been for ages past, and I believe will be for ages to come, (if the world stand,) the ground-work of the literary part of liberal education. It is like the root of all the most refined living languages; and when a foundation is laid in this, the rest are readily learned. In our own tongue, so many thousand words branch out from the Latin, so many Latin words are adopted into our language and become a part of it; and so many familiar Latin phrases and expressions are constantly used in speaking and writing, that an ignorance of Latin leaves one much in the dark, and, like bad spelling, betrays an original defect in one's tuition. An adept in Latin knows, as it were by intuition, the powers and fitness of words derived from that fountain, and uses them accordingly; he has opportunity of reading historians, moralists, poets, and orators, in a language which no translation does any thing like justice to: translations, compared with such originals, are like shadows compared with substances, and like unanimated, compared with animated nature. Do let Abraham learn Latin immediately: he may go on with his French at the same time. The store of learning is no burden. There are many changes in life: he may possibly be put to his shifts in future life, and be glad to get his bread by his

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wits, like his grandfather. When stripped of all, the Latin scholar can say: 'Omnia mea mecum porto.' * * I hope that my first-born grandson will be permitted to cultivate that literary knowledge, which, when kept in due subordination, is an useful ornament in society.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Clonmel, 24th of 7th Month, 1786.

* * * "I think I can say, in truth, I feel an increase of tenderness, and a disposition to do every thing in my power to make thy last days easy and comfortable. Thou hast been dedicated, in soul and spirit, body and substance. The prime of thy days has been devoted to the promotion of the noblest cause; and the affairs of this life, in which thou wast honourably engaged, were transacted in due subordination, and with reference to the great and principal object, the glory of thy Creator; therefore, in great mercy thou art released from a principal part of this world's cumber, and the desire of my heart is oftentimes for thee, that thy spirit may be visited with the rich, the blessed, infusion of heavenly joy. And I am glad, as we advance to old age, to feel an increase of pure desire for thy present happy tranquillity; and a renewal of that love which first cemented our spirits together, and was the original motive to that union, which has (I trust by Divine appointment) long ago taken place between us; an union which, I believe, has been blessed and sanctified. * *

"I trust you at home are all under the gracious care and protection of kind Providence. * * *

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER SARAH.

"Clonmel, 7th Month, 1786.

* * * "You are all very dear to me. I rejoice in the hope of your taking root in the Divine soil. The Great Husbandman sees and knows all his plants, and the different species of them, and what kind of ground is best for each. We may observe some trees thrive best in a deep and rich, and others in a light and sandy soil. Some love a dry, and others a marshy bed: nay, there are some which grow, as it were, out of the very rocks, where there is no depth of earth, and flourish amain: so that hardness itself, if rightly endured, (i. e. patiently endured,) is not always unfavourable to religious growth. If it be of Divine appointment it is good; for whatever He ordereth is good, and in season: but if our own misconduct, disobedience, or indolence, has caused our hearts to grow callous and unfeeling, I know nothing we poor creatures can do to help ourselves. We must patiently wait till He, without whom we can do nothing, is pleased to raise a will and desire in us to seek judgment; and having happily found it, let us dwell under the corrosive operation of it, till it performs a radical cure. Then light and life, and a good day, is again experienced, and an increase of holy fear and care not to offend again: for if there be a frequent repetition of faults, the spiritual delicacy and sensibility will gradually wear off; estrangedness from the power and virtue of truth will ensue; the relish, even for angel's food, will be lost; and the spiritual constitution will be totally changed.

In this mixed state of existence, my dear S. we are liable to many temptations and fluctuations. Retiredness of spirit, simplicity, and obedience, are all we have for it: if

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this be kept to on our parts, we may be assured that He, with whom we have to do, will not be wanting on his part. His gracious design is to do us good, to bless us, and make us happy here and hereafter: he is willing to enter into an everlasting covenant with us. He will assuredly perform his part; but if the conditions of the obligation be not also performed on our's, the covenant is annulled, and anxiety, distress, and a tribulated path through life, will be our portion, instead of that placid serenity and holy joy, which often attend the minds of those who faithfully do their duty, though amid the cares, and cumbers, and troubles, which must and will, at all events, fall to our lot here.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER MARY.

"Ballitore, 11th of 8th Month, 1786.

* * * "We are much favoured, my dear children, by the countenance, kindness, and friendship of many worthy friends; and I believe we are all sensible that it is not by any merit of ours, but purely through infinite mercy, that we have been so preserved as to have the precious unity of the living members of the church. Should any of us slide off the foundation of conviction and religious feeling; should any of us be caught by the dazzling splendour of the world, on any of its sides, whether the riches, the fame, or the friendship of it; should any of us, in our hearts, turn back into Egypt, that precious unity is immediately lost, the rights and privileges of the saints are forfeited, spiritual debility and decay ensue.

* * * *

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER MARY.

Then on a visit at the house of Samuel Neale, who was dangerously ill.

"Ballitore, 6th of 10th Month, 1786.

"When thou hast opportunity, present S. N. with thy mother's and my dear love. He was our early and intimate friend: we often took sweet counsel together. Our acquaintance was first formed, not in a slight, superficial manner, but in the deeps, where the Lord works, and where his wonders are seen; and it has been increased and strengthened through successive stages of life, by many a cementing, humbling baptism. He has not only been our own near and dear friend, but the friend, and as it were father of our children, to whom we know his love has flowed in a strong current, to their great advantage and comfort. So that we, to whom the welfare of our children is so dear, we, who have no greater joy than to see them walk in the truth, as they advance in years and experience, to be sensible that the Lord Almighty is preparing them for, and engaging them in, his actual service; *we*, surely, must highly prize such a friend, and be nearly interested in his present trying situation. However, we know in whose hand he is; that hand which rescued him from the jaws of destruction, which led him, and fed him, and preserved him in heights and in depths, which raised him a signal monument of his mercies; and, having brought him through many temptations and tribulations, qualified and commissioned him to tell to others what the Lord had done for *his* soul: this hand, though it might be permitted that his natural heart and flesh should

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fail, is all-sufficient to uphold, sustain, and comfort the spirit, and conduct it safely and happily into the mansion prepared for it. But we cherish a hope that it is consistent with Infinite Wisdom to prolong his stay awhile, among his near connexions, and the militant church, which, if it be the Lord's will, we earnestly desire. We charge thee with our very affectionate regards to the dear and worthy companion of our patient friend: her sufferings and anxiety on his account must be great. * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 9th of 7th Month, 1787.

* * * "I am pleased that —— has at last got into our right honourable row. I wish him and his bride the best comfort in domestic life. Thou canst tell them, my dear Margaret, from thy own experience, that, though the conjugal state abounds in many endearing gratifications, it has its own perplexities and disquietudes—that there is but one sovereign, unmixed good, which is essentially necessary to sanctify the union, to sweeten the attendant cares, and cause real and substantial happiness. I wish our dear friend —— may get strength from her elementary dip, and that her spirit may be often helped to get into the sacred pool, when the angel of the Divine Presence shall have moved upon the waters. * * *

"I note what thou sayest respecting the stagnation of life among you. I know not when I witnessed more of that stupid, torpid state, than in our meetings yesterday: there seemed neither wind nor tide, but a dead calm: however, if the ship be in order, the good pilot kept on board, and his will be submitted to, no danger will accrue.

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The wind will rise again when it listeth, the vessel will make its way; and when patience hath had its perfect work, all will be well.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Birr, 4th of 11th Mo. 1787.

* * * "My present engagement is attending our dear friend M. D. desiring for her that she may be rightly guided, in that line which the great Master wills; endeavouring to make way for the performance of this service; and saying amen, when I am able. S. dear S. does her part. To be going about visiting prisons, like Howard, is a gloomy, uncomfortable task; but it is a necessary and honourable employment. Indeed, those who will be truly serviceable in the church of Christ, in their day, must witness a state of very deep self-abasement—must be willing to appear vile in their own eyes, and in the eyes of others: all must labour long and hard, and be content with bare subsistence, without looking for any other reward. * * *

"It is a trite complaint to say things are low. They are indeed; but still, if each of us take heed to ourselves, if we be diligent in waiting, and faithful in obeying, I believe, through merciful condescension, our souls will live, and we shall be acceptable in the sight of our great Lord and Master; which is the perfection of our natures, and the end of our being. So, my dear Margaret, be thou encouraged; let the zeal of the Lord's house more and more absorb thee, and be resigned and devoted to serve the Lord in thy generation, with thy body, soul, and

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spirit, which are all his, and over which he has a right to an absolute control. I thank him reverently in spirit, that he has allotted thee a husband who loves the truth in his heart, and whose joy and delight it would be to see thee rightly and conspicuously concerned in the promotion thereof. Thou hast also a sweet flock of children, graciously preserved and continued to thee; thou hast many dear, select, and choice friends, whose spiritual fellowship helps to nourish thy hidden life; thou hast the means of a comfortable outward subsistence: all these great favours call for a rendering something; and this something must be nothing less than all.

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 25th of 11th Month, 1787.

* * * "No doubt thou hast been communicating with thy uncle Benjamin about the national visit, and probably E. Pim would communicate to thee what I wrote to her respecting it. I think we did as well as we were capable; and may say, as thy grandmother used to say of her passage through life, that it is well we met with no more scratches. On the whole, I believe the service was generally satisfactory, to visiters and visited. In some places where I expected truth would be much in dominion, I found and felt things more low and flat than I imagined would be the case; and in other places, from which I thought little good would come out, I had cause to hope and believe that a seed was preserved alive, which was well worth watching over and cultivating. So that to judge by appearances, or former sensations, will not do: the present feeling is what we have to go by. * * * I

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think you are much to be praised for your benevolence to the poor sufferers by the late flood. Acts of charity are noble, and acceptable in the sight of Heaven. If it be at all lawful to desire riches, it must surely be that they may be employed in such purposes.

"R. S."

E. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Ballitore, 1st of 1st Month, 1788.

"MY DEAR FRIEND AND COUSIN,

"By a letter my husband received from thee, confirming what we heard of the awful undertaking thou hast before thee*, (which, though now no secret, I doubt not has long been so in thy breast,) I thought it would be but kind in me to let thee know that I have felt sympathy with thee on that account, as being different from other services in these days; but the way thou hadst concluded to move in it, appears to me as the counsel of best Wisdom. I may say, that thy faithfulness and devotion of soul, in this and other services, has at times done me good, and cheered my poor and often-afflicted spirit; for what greater comfort can there be, than to see and feel that a succession of testimony-bearers to the everlasting, unchangeable truth is raising up amongst those who are in the prime of life, willing to go forth under their Lord's banner, and in their Lord's armour; not with carnal weapons; not with the wisdom, parts, or acquirements, that any may be furnished with, as men and creatures, unless

* A visit to those professing Friends' principles in France.

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they be sanctified; but with the weapons of his spirit, which, when humbly depended upon, are mighty to the pulling down of the strong holds that sin and satan have built up in the hearts of many.

"I am, with much affection,

"Thy true and faithful friend,

"E. S."

R. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Ballitore, 9th of 1st Month, 1788.

* * "Henry Wilkins' removal seems a loss indeed to religious society. He had weight and experience, and I believe many good qualities and qualifications. But these events are common, to be expected, and to be borne with patient resignation by the survivors, as being the dispensations of Him who doth all things well. The capital grievance, the stinging sorrow is, when any of the Lord's visited children, young or old, fall away from their stedfastness, bring discredit upon themselves, and upon the reputation of the spotless truth: this is what I earnestly deprecate for myself, and for my beloved friends; for we are no longer safe than while we watch unto prayer. He who tempted the Master, be sure, will not scruple to attack the servant, in whatever dignified station he may be. As to thee, beloved cousin, I seem hardly allowed to touch upon the subject of the new, the arduous, the awful service before thee. I must leave it to thy own deep feelings; and as thou dwellest in the deeps, and keepest upon the sure ground of the revelation of the spirit, I have no doubt but that thou wilt be rightly conducted. I believe such prospects of duty, when indubitably right, are not *always* clear to the party concerned;

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clouds often intercept the view, and the sun himself suffers an eclipse; the key of David locks up, as well as unlocks the holy vision; but as the patience of the saints is exercised, as the will of the creature is lost in the will of the Creator, and as there is an abiding in humility, simplicity, and singleness of heart, there is no danger but the great Shepherd will lead in and out, and provide pasture, immediate sustenance, and provender for the service.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 9th of 2d Month, 1788.

* * "The last report concerning our beloved friend E. Pike was rather favourable; so that we hope that worthy member of the church militant will continue awhile longer in the warfare, ere she be gathered to the church triumphant, the just of all generations. It is a fine thing, a great favour that you had such kind friends, such attentive nurses, such spiritual mothers to assist and comfort you in your various distresses. It is likely some of them will soon be taken from your heads, and carried (I hope by the spirit) into places which they know not. The great head of the church knows his own wise purposes; whom, and whither, and when to send forth, and whom to retain and employ in the long-cultivated vineyard. May He be with them that go, and them that stay; for all have equal need of his help, both for their own preservation, and renewed qualification for his service. May gracious Providence strengthen in body, and in the spirit of the mind, that his will may be done in, by, and through his servants; that so the Great Name may be more and more

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honoured, the knowledge of the truth extended, and the right way and worship spread among mankind.

"R. S."

R. S. TO JOHN THORP.

"Ballitore, 24th of 3d Month, 1788.

"I think, notwithstanding that there exists too much cause for the language of complaint, respecting the degeneracy and depravity of the times, that abundance of pains is taken in our religious society, by the going to and fro' of gospel ministers, publishing the way of life and salvation; and by the laborious, arduous conflict maintained with transgressors, in the support of our salutary discipline. And I trust that He who sitteth in the heavens looks graciously down, and beholds with approbation the well-meant efforts of a remnant in the cause of Christ, and the promotion and spreading of his reign and government on the earth. So that I wish there may not be in any a heart of unbelief, nor a dwelling too much on the view of the gloomy side of things; but rather that there may be a steady looking to Him who is omnipotent, and an exercising and cultivating each the particular gift allotted, according to the present ability, and in the will and time of the great Giver.

I am desirous for thee, my dear friend, that thou mayst look upwards, from whence hath come, cometh, and will come thy help. If I am not radically mistaken, thou hast received, thou hast been honoured with a beautiful gift: may way be made for thee to exercise it to the honour of the holy Head and to the edification of the body, in as diffuse a manner and degree as the Master willeth, and the church needeth. For my part, I think it is awful to be entrusted with supernatural

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talents, given for the edification of others. If ever so usefully occupied, what is the trustee but an unprofitable servant? but if the occupation and improvement, even of the one pound, be neglected, displeasure is incurred, and loss and shame follow. So that I wish us to be watchful and careful, that we may not fall into temptation of any kind; but that our hands may be free and skilful to build the Lord's house, our feet unfettered and ready to run on his errands, and our hearts replete with the joyful answer, of "well done, good and faithful servant."

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 22d of 7th Month, 1788.

* * "We were pleased with being at the province meeting of Wicklow: it was small, but I think mercifully favoured. My spirit was much dipped in secret travail, and I was satisfied, as I could feel and cry * * * A few of us were appointed to join on the family-visit in that quarter. I hope I may say we were helped through that service. * * * I have heard of our beloved E. Pim's speaking in meeting. I was glad that I was enabled, since I heard it, repeatedly and renewedly to petition for her. I do not find ability at present to write to her: I believe she is in my debt in that way. I do not press her, but when she has a little to spare, I hope she will remember the poor. * * I hope some of us are favoured with hearts of flesh, spiritual flesh, which is nourished and strengthened by the communication of glad tidings of great joy, and which is also pained and distressed with the afflictions of the gospel.

"R. S."

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R. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Ballitore, 11th of 9th Month, 1788.

* * "I congratulate thee and thy husband on your return in safety to poor Ireland, and make no doubt but that you experience at *home* that peaceful serenity of mind, which follows a faithful discharge of duty. It was a trying, arduous service which you were engaged in; and to have been effectually helped through, is cause of grateful commemoration of favours past, as well as of humble trust and confidence in the same sufficient help, to abilitate, to answer the requirings of the present and a future day. You are now among the natural, native branches of the family; you are not only members of it, but appointed stewards, and overseers of the household. Your lot is also cast in a place where are many hopeful plants, wholly I believe of a right seed, which seem on the way of growing to be trees of righteousness, that will bring forth precious fruit in their season. I need not remind *you* what peculiar necessity there is for such as are thus circumstanced often to go deep down for instruction and fresh qualification, to behave aright in the church of Christ. Many matters occasionally fall out, which call for the exercise of wisdom and understanding superior to that of the natural man, and it requires a constant, close sitting and dwelling at the Fountain-head of pure intelligence, in order to be ready and furnished to speak and act with propriety and acceptance, in cases of a solemn, weighty, and spiritual nature. You have mine and my wife's warm wishes for your increasing in good, and in a capacity to promote that cause, which is dignified by Heaven, and dignifies all those who are so honoured

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as to be dedicated and consecrated to its service. * * * I can see no cause for discouragement any way, with respect to opening the school. The motives I believe were pure, disinterested, noble; the object nothing less than the glory of the Creator, and the radical, essential good of his creatures; and yet difficulties and embarrassments may attend the commencement of the undertaking. The institution, laudable as it is, may be sown in tears; and the conductors of it may expect to go through good report and evil report, as deceivers, and yet true. Thy thoughts being low, and thy expectations not sanguine about this matter, I look on as a good symptom, promising stability and duration. A bright, glaring morning is often a prelude to a rainy day. For my part, I do, from my heart, wish this seminary of civil and religious education the best speed. * * *

"To the Shepherd of Israel, the bishop of souls, I heartily and tenderly commend you all; and joined by my wife and children, in a salutation of love to you and our beloved friends and kinsfolk there, remain very affectionately thine,

"R. S."

E. S. TO HER DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 26th of 9th Month, 1788.

"My dear Daughter Margaret,

"I intended to have acknowledged the receipt of thy very kind, intelligent letter, the two last days; but the continual interruptions I meet with, joined with my inability divers ways, render it difficult for me to write at all as I could wish; for it would be pleasant to

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me to converse with thee in this way, if I could. * * I am often helpless, in a great degree, in body and mind; at the same time admiring the kindness of my Preserver, from my youth to this day, in doing so much for me and mine, and in affording at times a little help, to keep in a degree of quiet resignation to bear what is permitted to fall to my lot, in a spiritual or temporal sense, and, which is a particular favour, the feeling my own worthlessness, poverty, and entire inability (of myself) to do any good thing. It must be that the reviving of ancient goodness in our society, and the dear children giving way to the leadings of the pure spirit of truth, bearing the cross, and despising the shame, cannot but cause such as have any life left in them, to rejoice, and, as it were with trembling, beg for their preservation; that so the cunning device of the enemy of poor mortals, may be seen in the light of the Lord, and they enabled to escape his snares, if the mind be preserved in rooted humility, sincerity, and faithful devotion of soul, to obey Him, who, with his dependent followers, ever had the victory; then will joy and gladness possess the souls of those, who have no greater joy than to see truth and righteousness flourish in the earth, and a succession of testimony-bearers raised up. * *

"You seem to be rich in faithful labourers, therefore you had all need to be faithful, and not strive to live on the labours of others. Our poor child S. I wish may not meet with any thing to hurt her: she has long been a steady, exemplary young woman. I know it must have been very hard to her to appear in a public testimony; but whatever she finds it her duty to put her hand to, I wish she may not be discouraged from doing with all her might, and, like Gideon, go forth in a sense of her own weakness. We also heard of dear A. T.'s amendment in health, and appearing in a more public way than usual.

"E. S."

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R. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Ballitore, 9th of 10th Month, 1788.

* * "My better half bids me remember her very affectionately to thee, and to tell thee she thinks thou didst very well in coming to our province meeting, that she had near unity with thy services, and wishes thee to stand dedicated and devoted to answer every manifestation of duty, whether of greater or, seemingly, smaller degree. 'Use strength and have strength,' is, in my opinion, a wise saying. I believe many gifted servants have suffered loss by overlooking things as small, too diminutive for persons of their growth and stature to stoop to; thinking that they will leave them to others who are younger, or of an inferior order: thus their inward man loses its agility and activity, its flesh becomes callous, and its sinews become hard. Continue, therefore, my very dear friend, cheerfully to submit to all kinds of labour, which the Master may put thee to. Labour is wholesome, and procures sweet bread. * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 9th of 11th Month, 1788.

* * * "Thou wilt probably, from some one or other, have had some account of our national meeting. We had neither T. G. nor S. N. there. T. G. was returned home from his visit to some parts of Great

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Britain, and I understand purposed to have been at the meeting, but for the critical situation that his daughter H. was in. I suppose want of bodily strength, not want of inclination, prevented our dear friend S. N. from attending. However, other servants, and what is best of all, the Master himself was there, baptizing spirits into a deep travail for the promoting of Christianity upon earth, and furnishing prepared instruments to labour in the love and in the authority of the Gospel. Even our own dear S. lifted up her voice in the public concluding meeting of worship. 'Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars.' Both then, and at several private meetings in Dublin, her effusions were I believe accompanied with divine life, and acceptable to the living who were present. Indeed, my heart has been made glad in the house of prayer, and my spirit has waded in the deeps, on behalf of the visited youth of this generation: the desire and petition of my soul has been, that nothing might be permitted to hurt them, nor mar the work of formation in and upon them; but that they may go forward, and increase in the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power; that so, by and through them, under divine protection and direction, the continued back-sliding of a degenerate people, may in a good measure be stopped, and the Lord may be graciously pleased to return to the many thousands of Israel.

"R. S."

R. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Ballitore, 23d of 11th Month, 1788.

* * * "I would just simply say, that all the near connexions of my dear Margaret are much obliged by thy tender, solicitous, affectionate care and attention to her,

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night and day, in season and out of season; and having thus said, I do not purpose to pain thee any more with a repetition of acknowledgments. We are on a different footing, than to deal in such kind of traffic: I shall therefore dismiss the subject with a wish, that whatever sorrows thou mayst have, whether of this or any other kind, thou mayst never want such a cordial friend and kind assistant, as thou hast been to her. * *

Abraham's children seem to be now finely over the small-pox, which is a very great favour and relief to the anxious mind of their mother; and I doubt not this merciful dealing of gracious Providence is an additional obligation, weighing them both down, causing them to say: 'What shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits?' May it have like good effect on all their near connexions. * * * I hope our A. B. has by this time got a little from under the weight of the mountains, and goes on simply and quietly in the performance of what she apprehends to be her duty; not looking at the difficulties and dangers which may be before her in the road of life, and so anticipating trouble before it is sent; but looking over them all, to the recompense and glorious reward which is laid up at the end, for the willing, faithful, obedient servant. 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.' And when difficulties and dangers present to her view, let her remember the wise man's experience: 'He that feareth God shall come forth out of them all.' And as I believe she is one of those, such, I trust and hope, will be her experience.

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 24th of 12th Month, 1788.

"MY DEAR MARGARET,

"The last of thy precious letters, which has come to my knowledge, is of the 11th instant, to thy mother. I returned the 15th from Mountmellick, having been invited to accompany M. R. and J. W. and the friends appointed to perform a family visit to the friends in that monthly meeting. I did not think well to refuse, so attended them till the visit was completed. I trust a degree of best help was administered, and that no harm was done. The women held out stoutly every way. The business, I hope, may be said to have been well done; but my expectations of consequent good fruit are not sanguine. However, the gospel must be preached, the seed sown and watered, and a patient travail of spirit exercised, that the Lord of the Harvest may be graciously pleased, in his own time, to add the increase. * * How is our dear friend M. D. now? Why, there is a fine host gone to Cork. It was noble of cousin S. R. G. and her sister to venture there*: such exemplary devotion and unreserved dedication will, I trust, accumulate large treasures for them in heaven, let the success turn out as it will on earth. The other worthies too, that embarked on the *pacific ocean*, in the glorious cause of the promotion of peace, will, I doubt not, have their blessed reward.

"Thou wilt, I know, like to be informed how our dear S. goes on. She has several times lifted up her voice in our

* This alludes to a visit which S. R. G. paid to the families of Friends at Cork.

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public religious assemblies, audibly, feelingly, and tenderly. In our afternoon meeting, 21st instant, she kneeled down, and in a very intelligible, yet very affecting manner, poured forth a solemn supplication to the great Lord of heaven and earth. It was a time of true solemnity. My poor spirit was at that instant wading in the deeps, and her lively offering no way interrupted, but assisted my laborious travail. When she has been faithful, she is cheerful, comfortable, and happy in herself; and, indeed, I believe this is generally the case with her: her even, steady, humble conduct, manifests the placid tenour and composure of her mind. I have never yet spoken to her between ourselves on this important subject: I leave her to Him who, I believe, has called and put her forth. But frequent and fervent have been my desires on her account; and not on hers only, but for others, to whom I am nearly united, both by nature and grace, that you may do valiantly in your day, not looking about for little, mean subterfuges, and pitiful evasions for self, but be willing to lose this selfish life, that so you may find that life which is hid with Christ in God.

"This is a day of revolting and backsliding—a day in which a vaunting, defying spirit, has too much prevailed, and Israel, those who are truly the Lord's people, have been discomfited and discouraged. If those who have received gifts from on high, and have in every respect been distinguished by peculiar favours, both spiritual and temporal, will pusillanimously slink back, or ungratefully refuse to comply with the clear requisitions of duty, surely great will be their condemnation. But I hope better things of divers of you: that you will, in the first place, take diligent heed to yourselves, and then, as with the heart of one man, advance under Divine direction and protection, against the common enemy. So be it, saith thy tenderly affectionate father.

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"How is our dear E. P.? If I do not mistake, I had the last word with her in this way. Assure her of my dear love. Her letters are always particularly acceptable to me; but I would not have her be uneasy about writing or not writing to me: may she mind well the work before her! and that is enough for me. Her preservation and her progress in the heavenly pilgrimage, is the object of my solicitous desire.

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 30th of 1st Month, 1788.

* * * "With my dear love, tell E. Pim I received her letter. She ought, by this time, to have known me better, than to imagine that I could forget her. She is like one engraven on the palms of my hands. Indeed, I am as it were astonished, that people should pay me such attention, and give me so many marks of their affectionate regard. I wish for more and more of those humbling baptisms, which keep us down in the deeps, and in a sense of our own unworthiness and insufficiency. * * * Cousin E. G.'s salutation is very acceptable. A. and she are objects of our particular attachment. I wish them to grow from strength to strength, not only as to their own religious experience, but capacity for more extensive, more weighty service in the church. Good parts and dispositions, sanctified by the truth, may be, and ought to be, and are designed to be solidly useful; and there is a danger of those losing ground, and sliding backwards, who do not go forward according to divine appointment.

"Our dear love to that family, always including thy aunt Taylor.

"R. S."

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CHAPTER VI.

Letters. The illness and decease of Richard Shackleton. Death of Elizabeth Shackleton.

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 21st of 1st Month, 1789.

* * "My mind is often humbled in deep thankfulness, on account of divers of you, my beloved children, who are not only preserved to walk in the truth, but called to bear testimony to it; and my earnest and affectionate desire is, that you may be faithful and obedient to the clear manifestations of duty, and of the divine requirings. This is what will render you comfortable and happy in yourselves, and be as a Goshen to you in the midst of Egyptian darkness: you will have light, cheering light, in your dwellings. But the contrary has a contrary effect: instead of the conscious answer of 'well done, good and faithful servant,' there will be a fearful looking for of judgment, divine favour will be withdrawn, and the spirit left solitary in a dry pit: nay, even the lawful gratifications of this life will lose their relish, the cup will be embittered; and the cross occurrences which fall out will cut with a keener edge, and the hurts and wounds made by them will be in danger of rankling and festering, instead of being presently healed. So may we all be mercifully preserved a family, a field, which the Lord hath blessed, and will graciously delight to

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bless. A little time, and all will be over with us here: eternity and its prospects should be the object of our contemplation, and have all their due weight and influence with us. I sent thy message of love to our friend E. Pike. That wise lady's answer was: 'We accept thy daughter Grubb's love: she seems as a piece of myself.' Is not this *multum in parvo?*

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Waterford, 19th of 5th Month, 1789.

* * "It is thirty-five years, this day, since a former beloved companion was translated from earth to heaven. The loss was grievous, and the outward prospect melancholy; but the great Controller of events, in the plenitude of his goodness, was pleased to make up that loss to me and mine, and to brighten that gloomy aspect of things, by adding *thee*, his precious gift, to my family. In thee we have found a wife, a mother, a daughter, a superintendant, a counsellor, helper, and friend; and I trust we are all thankfully sensible of the favour. I do seem at times as if home was not to be my constant place of residence, and as if the comforts of domestic life were folded up; so that I apprehend, at times, it is best for me to leave home, and be in the way of witnessing that some religious service goes forward. On these occasions I have ever found thee willing to encourage, release, expedite, and accommodate me to the best of thy power, which I gratefully acknowledge. * * * Thy children will, I doubt not, care for thee now in the decline of life; and I trust Almighty help and favour will be near for thy comfort and support. Remember me affectionately to our dear S. A petition was begot in my

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heart for her this day in meeting, that she may be preserved in the training of Infinite Wisdom, and grow to be useful in the church of Christ, according to the extent of the designation of her gracious Master, whose she is, and whom I believe she serves acceptably. If she finds in her heart to write me a line, it will, doubtless, be acceptable; but I would not have her be uneasy if she does not, for I shall not be uneasy on that account. I wish her never to give to others that which is only for herself, nor to keep unprofitably and detrimentally to herself, what may be given to her for others. If it will be any encouragement or satisfaction to her, I can freely say I have near unity with her sweet effusions, and her deportment and conduct preaches loudly (I wish I could say effectually) to me.

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Hubberston, 23d of 5th Month, 1789.

"Now, my beloved companion and dearest friend, for thy satisfaction I may inform thee, that I have been quite satisfied in my mind with this excursion, which I have ventured to take, not rashly, but as seekingly and as feelingly as I well could; and I hope Divine Mercy has cleared the way for it, and will be near to preserve and support every way.

"Along with innumerable favours heaped on my unworthy head, I am, I trust, thoroughly sensible of my own manifold weaknesses and insufficiency; and this sense, renewed and confirmed to me from time to time, is cause of deep thankfulness to me; for I love the low and tender and helpless state, in myself and others. This is what the eye of

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blessed regard is graciously towards; this is the field which the Lord hath blessed and will bless. While I write thus, thou and our beloved S. are particularly in my thoughts, and I crave the help of your spirits, and your intercession on my behalf. I hope our beloved child is in sound health of body and mind; that she goes on, in *public* and *private* life, in simplicity and godly sincerity.

The believer, the true believer, whose hope and confidence is in the fresh supplies of everlasting strength, maketh not haste, but patiently waiteth for the former and the latter rain: the former to fructify, and bring to maturity the heavenly harvest; the latter to replenish and reward the fruitful soil, and prepare for another crop.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 27th of 6th Month, 1789.

* * * "I am glad thy honest Samuel was so well pleased with his excursion, [the Yearly Meeting in London.] He seemed to enjoy it. Thou mentionest his apparent increase of flesh, I trust he has also witnessed an increase of spirit in the course of his tour, by the opportunities of instruction and observation which he has had. We sometimes grow, I believe, and do not know that we grow; as we may decline, and not be immediately sensible of it. So it is said of Samson: 'He wist not that the Lord was departed from him.' Thy husband is possessed of that humility, simplicity, and integrity, which will not fail of making way for him; and as he diligently cultivates a renewal of inward strength, by frequent retirement, I doubt not his becoming, in time, a father in the church, as he is much a father in his own family. I am pleased to find he got well home. His bro-

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ther Robert and his suite getting home the same day, made it, as cousin S. said, like running a race. I wish you all to run legitimately, without emulation or justling, and all to receive the prize.

"This Clonmel is a wonderful place: it is an awful thing to live in it. There is such an assemblage of choice spirits, and such a necessity of each one being a good example to the others, lest any should improperly indulge themselves in another person's liberty. But, if it were even Paradise itself, so long as it is on earth, Satan will contrive to get into it, and, if possible, will defeat, deform, and defile; so let us watch and be sober.

"R. S."

R. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Ballitore, 22d of 8th Month, 1789.

"MY DEAR COUSIN,

"I have been writing to some great folk, and dispatched my yearly epistle to thy mother. I now turn to one of the little ones, whom I am glad to be enabled to salute with renewed affection, and to whom I would, with all willingness, hand more than a cup of cold water, in the name of a disciple, if I had it to give. We are, very emphatically, called *Friends;* and friends we should be to one another, not sparing friendly advice and reproof, and taking a willing oversight of one another, as keepers of one another, and so profitably conjoined in harmonious labour. If then we should not withhold reproof and correction in proper season, why should we withhold encouragement, and the expression of strengthening unity? If I have any thing to write to thee at this time, my dear friend, it is in this line—the line of encouragement to hold on thy way.

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Continue in the littleness of self, and thou wilt continue to witness an enlargedness in the service of thy great Master. And be not weary of well-doing: consider whose cause it is which thou art engaged in, of infinite importance and consequence; and how much depends on every one who is sent on any expedition, or who has any part to maintain, faithfully and firmly discharging their duty. To give way in a little is to weaken in the general; but every one doing his own part, the whole is strengthened, and the work completely and uniformly carried on. * *

"We have recent intelligence of the sudden decease of our dear friend, William Rathbone, of Liverpool. He is a loss in number and in weight, of the living members of the church. I believe he was an honest, faithful, diligent, sensible, useful friend, and leaves a considerable chasm in that quarter. * * * Our dear friends, M. R. and Co. are, it is like, rolling now on the vast ocean. Though the winds roar, and the billows toss, yet may their devoted minds be kept calm, in sweet, serene composure.

Farewell, my beloved friend; mayst thou take deeper and deeper root in humility, and in the experience of the divine life, for thy own preservation and nourishment, the more thou advancest in religious stature, and spreadest wide thy fruit-bearing branches. Remember me affectionately to thy honest husband. I am glad that thou art joined to one who will encourage, make way for, and help thee in every respect. The whole plantation at Suir Island, trees, saplings, and underwood, have all my warm wishes for their growth and prosperity.

"R. S."

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R. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Ballitore, 16th of 12th Month, 1789.

* * "When we prescribe for such as thou art, we must also take in the mind, which often affects, and is affected by the organs of the body. *Be an obedient child.* Now a child does not reason a great deal, nor puzzle itself with the consideration of probable consequences; its duty and its praise are, simply to do as it is bid. This is acceptable to the great Father of the family in heaven and on earth; this is uniting in the chorus, in the blessed harmony; this is not interrupting, confusing, or retarding the great work of 'glory to God, and good-will to men,' but it is promoting and forwarding it, according to the Divine will. 'The stars in their courses fought against Sisera;' and of whatever degree in the heavenly host, my beloved friend, thou mayst esteem thyself to be, (and I am sure I care not how little *that* is in thine own eyes,) be thou encouraged to persevere in unreserved dedication of all to the cause of Christ. The kingdoms of this world seem in an unusual ferment; and the bottom on which the false religions of it are founded, is altogether slight, precarious, and uncertain. Who knows how near the hour may be, when it shall please the Omnipotent to rend the veil which obscures the spiritual sight of mankind, and to reveal himself to the human species in a more general way? saying, as at the beginning of the creation, 'Let there be light, and there was light.' May you, who are called and chosen, and furnished for the Master's service, be disencumbered, and ready willingly to run on his errands, with an 'Here am I, send me;' diligently attending to the fresh pointings and directions of wisdom, in the course of your service. So will the great and glorious work be likely to prosper in

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your hands, and your peace will run down as a river in the present life, bearing and supporting your spirits till you are conveyed to the ocean and fulness of everlasting peace and joy.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 5th of 2d Month, 1790.

* * * "We are mercifully favoured here with pretty good health, except our sweet, dear little Peggy, who does not yet rub through her complaints; but as diligent means are used for her restoration, we cherish a hope it may prove consistent with the Divine will to bless the same. However that may be, submission and resignation are our duties. Much severer trials may yet await us, than the translation of the spirit of an innocent child, from a scene of conflict and danger, to everlasting safety and happiness.

"I think thou art quite right in paying all proper attention to the facilitating thy husband's leaving home, and getting the benefit of solemn feasts as well as thyself. Those who are often much hampered with worldly cares, are necessarily covered with the dust of them. They want to be often shaken from this dust, that it may not lie so long as to sully their garments. Turning the back to the world for a season, and giving up to those solemnities, I believe, are often attended with beneficial consequences. The women dwell more *ex-officio* in the quiet habitation, are less exposed to the spots of the world. * * I am glad to be well assured that thy husband and thou earnestly seek each other's improvement in the best

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things, and are as desirous each for the opportunity of the other's spiritual advantage, as his or her own.

"R. S."

R. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Ballitore, 11th of 2d Month, 1790.

"MY DEAR COUSIN,

"Thy last written communications to me, dated the 1st day of this year, were very acceptable. The extracts of letters received from France, and from our dear friend R. Jones, were a highly-pleasing treat; and all this furnished at a time when thou wast wading in the deeps, engaged with sore conflict of mind, and wrestling for a mixture of condescending mercy. To think of fitting out an entertainment for me in such circumstances, was an argument of true friendship and true humility; and thy increase in these two respects, is a particular object of my desire for thee, both for my sake and thy own. Well, dear friend, thou wast helped over that mountain also, the visit to Kinsale and the prison there. I congratulate thee thereupon, and expect thou wilt be still further instructed, disciplined, and modelled, by these further sufferings and rejoicings; so that thou wilt become more and more an obedient child, ready at a beck to run, and do the will of thy Father who is in heaven. I was, and am also glad at heart, that our beloved E. P. is so completely reduced and moulded—so willing to be any thing, as well as nothing. Well, it is certainly the most spiritually-politic way: it saves the poor creature a great deal of trouble, to give up at once; not to be trifling and tampering about articles of capitulation, but surrender at the discretion of

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the conqueror. Salute that dear child, for my wife and me, with much affectionate nearness. I wrote to her in answer to her last. If she has any good news to tell me, I care not how soon she communicates it; if the contrary, I have a heart willing to share in her troubles. * * *

"How closely are even the favoured of Heaven sometimes tried, about the means of providing outward necessaries! that their diligence in worldly business and their fervency of spirit may be stimulated at the same time; that they may be stirred up to exercise an assiduous, prudent care in their occupations, and yet be taught that the fruit of their labour depends altogether on Him who alone can give the increase. * * * There is a want of more fathers and mothers amongst us; such as seek not the sordid gain of pre-eminence; but who, though men in religious understanding, are children, as to a humble, happy, tractable disposition of mind: such as are meek, compassionate, benevolent, forgiving, preferring others before themselves; or, in a word, such as have put on Christ, and keep on them that blessed clothing. I hear with much satisfaction, one good report or other of some of you thereaway. I wish the babes and sucklings may be strengthened to do their part; for a great deal depends on that class thriving, and doing their duty. To be mercifully preserved from material injury, in passing through the child's state, affords good hopes of arriving at the measure of stature and capacity, designed by Infinite Wisdom. I like the last communications from France which thou sentest me. When thou hearest from that visited, agitated country, I doubt not thou wilt be kind enough to communicate. * * *

"Desiring thy continued increase in good, and expecting to be favoured with a visible, manual token of thy

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remembrance, when a favourable coincidence shall fall out, with dear love to thee and cousin Robert,

"I remain thy very affectionate kinsman,

"R. S."

R. S. TO JOHN THORP.

"Ballitore, 14th of 2d Month, 1790.

"It is not a time for servants who have been trained in a holy discipline, fitted and prepared by various previous dispensations, instructed to know the Master's will, and practised in the performance of it: it is not a time for such to be as idle, indifferent spectators, serving themselves, and neglecting the Master's business. The cause which the Son of God introduced upon earth, which he promulgated by his own authority, confirmed by miracles, and sealed by his blood; a cause which involves in it life and immortality, and every thing that is truly good in time and in eternity; this is certainly to be faithfully espoused, and diligently promoted among men, according to the ability imparted. So thought our predecessors, and left behind them a most striking example of diligence, fortitude, perseverance, and patience in grievous and long-continued sufferings. They knew that the term of this life was short, and that what they had in commission to the people of that generation was of infinite importance; so that they lost no time in delivering their Lord's message, and forwarding his business with care, fidelity, and dispatch. 'Go and do thou likewise.'

"I gratefully accept the salutation of my honoured friend, Sarah Taylor, and I also accept her excuse for not writing to me. She hath done what she could, (I believe,) through a long life, in a far more noble and useful

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line; and I would not begrudge her now to sit down and eat the fruits of her industry—to tarry at home, and divide, among her friends and neighbours, the precious spoil won by her honest services.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER SARAH.

"Ballimurry, 14th of 4th Month, 1790.

* * * "I cannot say when I shall get home. I mean to do all about staying and going, as well as I can; and I have a hope that a way will be cast up for poor, blind me, that will be best. I have been hitherto mercifully and graciously helped; and therefore, if I be preserved from evil, I trust the same kind hand will continue to support and direct. It is my principal dependance. I have little or no confidence in the flesh, in my own talents, abilities, or contrivance.

"My poor families with you are the subject of my deep travail, with earnest desires for your help, and for the interference and blessing of Heaven among, and upon you; particularly and especially thy dear mother is the object of my faithful, affectionate solicitude, who so generously and freely gives me up, and takes care for me at home and abroad. So may we be united and bound up together all in the spiritual relation, mercifully taken and kept under the notice, and forming, and direction of the heavenly hand, all children of the same everlasting Father and Friend. And mayst thou, my dear S., continue to be an example to us all in watchfulness, innocence, simplicity, and dedication. Look not too far before thee; take not into thy view and contemplation too great a field of labour at a time, which may intimidate and discourage thee; but

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whatever little matter thou findest to do, do it in the *present* might. As was said to Moses, '*I am* hath sent thee.' Then retire to thy own closet, and hearken to the secret intimations whispered there, endeavouring to shut out all the redundance of reasoning and imagination, which will be apt to intrude and mix there; remembering that that which is born of the flesh is only flesh, and profiteth nothing there; flesh and blood not being capable of entering into the spiritual kingdom.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"London, 2d of 6th Month, 1790.

* * * "Did I mention that this yearly meeting ordered a commodious place to be purchased, and edifices to be erected here, for the more convenient reception and holding of the yearly men's and women's meeting? for which purpose they directed ten thousand pounds to be raised. Though this was only an external matter, yet it was carried through the meeting with such unanimity, dignity, and nobility of spirit, that all within me was prostrated in thankfulness, as at the footstool of the throne—as when the outward temple was to be built, and the people offered so willingly. I more and more find this yearly meeting lie close to my heart.

"R. S."

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R. S. TO S. R. G——.

On her setting out on her second visit to the continent.

"London, 5th of 6th Month, 1790.

"MY DEAR COUSIN,

"I. P. informing me that it was necessary to send the enclosed letter under a cover, I thought I might as well write a few lines *on* the cover, as send it empty away. I therefore take the opportunity of saluting thee with my best love, and intimating to thee the continued increase of near affection for thee. I believe that the more any are devoted and dedicated to the promotion of the Christian cause, and the more diligently they labour therein, that they feel in a stronger degree, not only the effectual help of the Great Master to their spirits, but the help of the spirits of their friends, brethren, and sisters. And as thou hast set such an example of unreserved submission to the divine will, and obedience to the heavenly call, I doubt not thy being borne up through the service before thee, to the glory of the great Name, and the propagation of the blessed gospel of Christ among men. Rejoice then, my beloved friend, that thou art honoured with a part of the ministry; continue to let it be as thy meat and drink, thy ordinary food, to do the will of Him who sent thee, and to accomplish thy allotted share of his work. * *

"I love to reside in the humble valley, and that the precious dew may lie upon my branch. And thus I wish you, my beloved friends, enlisted, accoutred, engaged, and committed in the most glorious cause which ever dignified human nature; that in the nothingness of self, and abasement of the creature, you may receive your fresh supplies of spiritual ability from the sole source of all right, religious

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qualification. And if in some places there is not an ear to hear, no opportunity to scatter, go forward, *bearing* the precious seed. * * I am ashamed to take the liberty thus to write to my superiors; but *interpret* it as the effusion of simplicity and love. * * * Do let us know how you get on every way. Many are deeply interested in your welfare, and among those,

"Thy truly affectionate friend and kinsman,

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore 8th of 7th Month, 1790.

"My dear Margaret,

"I have indeed abundant and renewed cause of thankfulness to our Almighty Benefactor, for his gracious protection still extended, and his safe conduct of a very poor and helpless creature, home to my family and friends. I have also humbly to acknowledge the daily supplies every way afforded, profitable to me, for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: thus the rod and the staff, administered in wisdom, alternately rectify and regulate, assist and comfort; and so poor pilgrims move along under repeated convictions of their own infirmities and insufficiency, and under a renewed experience of continued mercy and divine aid. The yearly meeting of London seems like a home or habitation to my spirit. I am dipped there, I trust, in some degree, into the state of the Christian cause, and engaged in a travail, and secret, silent wrestling for a blessing on the endeavours of the faithful in this day for the promotion of it: this I look upon as my principal business there, though a good deal of other matter, relative to church-affairs, falls

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to my lot besides, and calls for diligent exertion of my best abilities. Upon the whole, my dear M., I do hope this most important cause gains ground; and that, though there still remain some fruitless, sapless trees in the wood, yet a great number of promising young plants have taken strong root downwards, and are shooting vigorously upwards. Much depends on their preservation from any annoyance—on their upright growth, and bearing each their own kind of fruit in due season. My journey to and from London, and temporary stops at sundry places, as well as some few excursions in the neighbourhood of London, were generally attended with satisfaction to my mind. I renewed precious amity with old surviving friends; and I met with opportunity of cultivating a pleasing and profitable intimacy with some new ones. I saw my friend Burke, had him awhile to myself, and admired and loved him afresh. * * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Carlow, 19th of 7th Month, 1790.

"My beloved Cousin,

"My wife and I, and several of us of this monthly meeting, have been engaged a little at *home*, in a degree of like labour as engages you *abroad*. *We* have been endeavouring to dress the *garden* already enclosed, the soil of which is indeed poor enough, and weeds enow, rooted and running to seed, in danger of disseminating their own prolific species, to the deforming of the garden and the annoyance of the hopeful plants. *You* are occupied in the wide and wild *field*, where there is abundance of rough work to be done, access to be gradually made, rubbish to

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be removed, stones to be gathered out, and the gospel plough and harrow to be introduced. I have at times been favoured to meet with you there in spirit, and to desire a blessing on your work. In so large a field of labour, your work may indeed seem small and contemptible in your own rational view; but, as it is said, 'Every thing has a beginning,' be not discouraged; do *your* part, and that is enough for *you*. Sow the seed in faith, and leave it under the blessing of the Heavenly Husbandman: other labourers may be sent hereafter into the field, in the progress of the work, with different tools and instruments, for further service. The present time, the present might and ability, diligently and rightly employed, are the most likely means for the business to be effectually promoted, and for the securing and establishing your own peace, the precious penny, the inestimable reward. My fellow-labourers have left me here, as I am so far on my way to Youghall, where the province meeting is to begin, the 25th instant; and where I expect to meet with old James Christy, and John Gough, and several other friends, in order to essay a beginning of the national visit, which has been appointed here. I understand J. G. has lately had an alarming paralytic stroke, which nearly deprived him of the use of one side for some time; but was so far recovered as to be able to attend their late quarterly meeting near Charlemont, where he had very acceptable service, appearing with increasing brightness in his Master's cause, who, I trust, will strengthen him every way for this fresh service. I love to see people so devoted, so dedicated, so set upon promoting the cause of Christ. * * *

"I hold myself much obliged, as I have been much gratified, by thy kind communication from Amsterdam, of the 1st instant. Continue, my dearly beloved cousin, so to favour me; for thou art precious with me, and thy pre-

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servation, and perseverance in well doing, are among those subjects of solicitous travail which are interwoven with my best feelings. * * * Peace be to you, and peace to your helpers! The Lord hath helped, doth, and will help you.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——,

"Ballitore, 22d of 11th Month, 1790.

"My beloved Margaret,

"It was very kind, in thy situation, to take the trouble of writing. We feel indeed for thee, and wish it were in our power to afford thee any relief. We have none to send thee except our advice, and that I believe thou hast no occasion for; for thou knowest where to look for help, and who it is that can say 'peace, be still;' and the storms in the moral, as well as in the elementary world, obey his voice. But it is often easier to give advice than to take it: it is easy to recommend resignation; but when the trial comes home to us, and the exquisitely tender feelings of nature are affected; then to say with the heart, 'Thy will be done!' is to overcome indeed. And yet such a victory over humanity may be gained, and is often gained by the Lord's children, in their pilgrimage through this life; and being strengthened by his love and his power, they can, in all humility and gratitude, kiss the rod which chastises them, and bless the hand, which in perfect, though unsearchable wisdom, both gives and takes away. Our sympathy with thee, my dear child, is strong; and our hope, I trust, is not of the hypocrite, which perisheth; our hope is, that thou wilt, in the Lord's time, be raised out of those pits of distress, and having

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been made a witness of deliverance, wilt have experimentally to testify to the sufficiency of that arm of everlasting Power, which could deliver in such sort, and to encourage other travellers in the like tribulated path, to hold on their way. * *

"Thy son Abraham is in good health, through favour of Providence; a fine, sensible, well-disposed boy, who, I trust, will be a comfort and assistance to his worthy father and thee. When I speak of comfort, I must consequently think of our dear S. R. G. whom to have so near thee must be pleasing and strengthening. It is strikingly remarkable, of how singular and manifold service one person is, whose good natural understanding is imbued with divine wisdom, and who, in all humility and devotedness, goes on in simplicity, doing the great Master's will. How great then must be the use, and how powerful the effect, when many such are combined together, assisting and encouraging one another, and assisted and encouraged by the Head of the church. So that every individual should look well to themselves, lest their want of coming properly forward should not only be to their own great loss, but to the impoverishing and debilitating of the general effort for promoting the common cause. I hear that account has been received of the release of our dear friend, William Mathews, from this warfare. * * Now, my dear M. with the one heart of two parents affectionately solicitous for thy happy release, in due season, from every burden, and that all sorrows may, in the Lord's time, be changed into joy, I bid thee most tenderly and cordially farewell.

"R. S."

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R. S. TO S. G——.

"Ballitore, 25th of 11th Month, 1790.

"My dear Samuel,

"This morning we received the account of my sweet little grandson's transit from earth to heaven; an happy exchange indeed for him, without undergoing the troubles and running the risk of length of days. But I know *thy* tender heart will be grieved, and that such trials deeply affect thee. Let this reflection comfort thee: that thy children thus removed are safe and well provided for, and that thou wilt have no tears to shed for their misconduct. He who does all things in perfect wisdom, and knows what is best for us all, thus orders respecting us, that we may by his humbling, refining dispensations, be made what he would have us to be. * * * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO S. R. G——.

"Ballitore, 27th of 11th Month, 1790.

"My dear Cousin,

"I often crave to be preserved from stealing, and taking the great name in vain; that is, from unwarrantably and illicitly meddling with religious subjects; and I hope it is under some of this awful covering and salutary fear, that I endeavour to keep up a correspondence of this sort, with a number of dear and intimate friends. I consider that we have 'gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us;' that I have, when at home, some leisure time; and that I find I have neither a cast, nor liking, nor capacity for many ordinary affairs, which occupy many

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people's time and talents: they attend to that which pleases them, and which they understand. Why may not I attend to that which pleases me, and in which I wish to improve; provided I neither hurt myself, nor any one else? I know that, as good economists, we should have a store-room in our house, in which things not wanted for present use should be carefully locked up; and that frugality and industry are very necessary qualities, as the means of exercising liberality in due season. To be frugal, not parsimonious; liberal, and not lavish; is what I think we should endeavour to learn. But why all this preface? As I lay awake this morning, thou occurredst to me; and no wonder, as thou art the frequent companion of my thoughts; thou seemedst to me rather poor and low, like myself, and I thought I would try if I could converse with thee in this manner. I do not want to make a flourish in praise of poverty; as some people, instead of bowing down under, and bearing the cross, appear to me to ride exultingly and ostentatiously upon it; but I want just to manifest, by this little token, my sensibility and affectionate sympathy with thee. Neither do I want to give thee advice on the occasion. I am not so vain and foolish as to think thou standest in need of my advice. Thou art a trained servant, and art acquainted by this time with thy Master's ways and manner. Thou hast, though young in years, been long under his holy discipline, and knowest that much exercise, conflict, and probation is continually to be gone through, in order to be made 'perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.' Thou hast drunk deeply of divine consolation, and thou hast known a walking in the light of the Lord; yea, thy path has been for a season as the shining light. No wonder then that in turn thou shouldst not only be stripped of thy priestly robes, but compassed with the troubles and perplexities, which belong to us, as being flesh. I believe, indeed, that those

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who ascend to the greatest heights of the holy hill, and as instruments are made most eminently useful; I believe that those have to descend proportionably into the lower parts of the earth, and have the greatest need to experience a being buried with Christ, by baptism into death. Such is the frailty and fallibility of our compound natures, that the great Author of them knows there is a necessity for our undergoing repeated humiliations and abasement of self, that we may know and feel, and be made thoroughly sensible of this important, essential truth: that 'we are not sufficient of ourselves even to think any good thing, as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God.'

"It is a considerable comfort to us, that thou, my beloved cousin, art got home, while our dear Margaret has been so tried. She has lost her little John. We are in anxious expectation about her, but our hopes overbalance our fears. We trust that our gracious Benefactor will be mercifully pleased to bring her through her dreaded conflict, and restore her to her family, to her friends, and to the church; which stands greatly in need of well-qualified, experienced, devoted, active members, who have witnessed the dispensation of preparation for acceptable service. * * * Farewell, my beloved friend and cousin.

"29th. This letter has been delayed; and we have, since it was written, received the glad tidings that our dear M. had increased her family, for which I desire to be favoured with a thankful heart. By E. Pim's letter, I find several of you were bound for Cork. I might indeed have thought of the quarterly meeting being to be there. * * Once more, and evermore, my dear cousin, farewell!

"R. S."

The following letter, dictated by S. R. Grubb, four days before her decease, in reply to the preceding from R. S.

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concludes this interesting correspondence. Sarah R. Grubb was seized with a fever whilst at Cork, and died the 8th of 12th month, 1790.

"Thy salutation met me, though apparently out of course, in the right time; being under impressions which make time and circumstances of little account, compared with the unlimited consolations of the Spirit, or a preparation to receive them at the Divine hand. My soul, though encompassed with the manifold infirmities of a very afflicted tabernacle, can feelingly worship, and rejoice in nothing more than this, that the Lamb immaculate is still redeeming, by his precious blood, out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; and making a glorious addition to the church triumphant, whose names will stand eternally recorded in the book of life. I express not these things from a redundancy of heavenly virtue, but from the soul-sustaining evidence that, amidst all our weakness, and conflicts of flesh and spirit, an interest is mercifully granted in Him who giveth victory over death, hell, and the grave."

R. S. TO ROBERT GRUBB.

"Ballitore, 28th of 12th Month, 1790.

"DEAR COUSIN ROBERT,

"I doubt not but thou hast had many affectionate, sympathizing, consoling salutations from thy numerous friends, in thy present solitary state; and should these be withheld, yet thou knowest where and in whom are hid all the fresh springs of true consolation, as well as all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; yet I had a mind to throw in my mite of comfort, having myself been tried in

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like manner with the privation of a bosom-friend, and partner in the cares and comforts of this life, and a faithful, religious help-mate. Infinite Wisdom indeed has seen meet to 'take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke;' but the reflection of thy having been favoured with so excellent a companion; the recollection of the many pleasant, profitable seasons which you had together; and a sense of the spiritual benefit which has accrued from your near connexion, must be at times attended with a savour, and consolatory feeling which sweetens the bitter cup. Thy tender care of this eminent, honourable servant; thy attention to her wants of every kind; and thy constant promoting and assisting her in her progress in the great work and service in which she was engaged on earth, must also be a source of solid satisfaction to thy mind, in the frequent retrospect which thou wilt have to take of the time of your journeying together in the road of life. So that I wish thee, my dear cousin Robert, to be cheered, to look up, to be encouraged to attend to the civil and religious duties of the remaining part of thy day; and to endeavour, by thy own spiritual growth in the root of Divine life, and improvement in holy experience and right capacity for religious service, to make up, according to thy measure, in some part, the great loss which the church militant has sustained, by the translation of this noble and splendidly-useful instrument from earth to heaven. * * * * *

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 25th of 1st Month, 1791.

* * "May we all be preserved objects of gracious, condescending regard; and if it should please Infinite Wisdom to give any of us an understanding in spiritual things, and to qualify us at times a little to handle them, let us, in all humility and reverence, receive the commission and command as a favour far transcending all worldly honours and emoluments; let us not slight, nor regret, nor repine at the heavenly gift, but gratefully attend upon it, and use our diligent endeavours to improve it, to the honour of the giver; that so our lives may flow on as comfortably as is to be expected in this mixed state of existence, under the renewed evidence of Divine approbation; that we may leave vestiges and way-marks to the succeeding generations, which they may safely and happily follow; and having had the high honour of being, in any degree, engaged in the promotion of the reign and government of Christ on earth, may be eternally happy with him in his heavenly kingdom.

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 2d of 3d Month, 1791.

My dear Margaret,

"Thy mother received thine of 26th ult. and though thou dost not speak out, I cannot but think that thou durst not stay at home; so give up cheerfully, and come to this north country. People may talk of the weight and

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influence, and respectability of age; but if younger persons do not go forth in the service, and exert themselves, the cause will suffer. I am not for dragging thee, my dear child, from thy domestic concerns, which are various and important; but if truth gently draw thee, and whisper that a duty is to be done, I would have thee follow its leadings and secret monitions. He that made is all-sufficient to preserve: the kine, indeed, must be allowed to low as they go; the natural part, to regret the parting with the inexpressibly tender connexions left at home; but the ark of the testimony must be taken out of the land of the Philistines, and blessed will they be with whom it resteth. So, my dear M. be not dismayed, but if thou hast heard the call, go forth, though it may be weeping: bear and scatter the precious seed, according to heavenly direction, and there is no doubt but peace will be the crown. Thy sister S. holds herself in readiness to go with M. D. I hope it is right, but I am sure it is a close trial to us. I feel a soft part in my nature: nature must get vent.

"R. S."

In this year, (1791,) Mary, third daughter of Richard Shackleton, was married to William Leadbeater.

R. S. TO HIS SON-IN-LAW LEADBEATER.

"Lurgan, 13th of 4th Month, 1791.

"DEAR WILLIAM,

"Having written to thy mother, and the rest of our children in Ballitore, I thought it would not be unacceptable to thee to be remembered likewise in this manner. * * * So, my dear William, trouble comes to all the race of men: it is the condition of our nature, and no doubt necessary for us. May thou and thy dear companion not be too much wrapped up in each other, but in the

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time of outward tranquillity, and respite from heavy affliction, seek diligently to get settled in some hiding-place in that rock, the inhabitants whereof find a shelter from the storms; yea, and at times sing in secret for very joy of heart. * * * It will be a very capital favour to be rightly helped through the present service: it is difficult and dangerous—requires meekness of wisdom indeed. I wish that you, who are young, may keep very constantly going to school; that so you may be learning more and more every day, and be more and more qualified to understand and to teach the living lessons of pure Christianity. This knowledge is indeed worth aspiring after. It comprehends life eternal: it is not seated in the head, the region of the imagination, but it occupies the heart; and, like the sense of feeling, pervades the whole inward man. Thou knowest, dear William, something of this Divine nature: it was the precious sense of it which caused in thee such a disrelish for insipid, lifeless, outward, unsubstantial forms. Continue to hunger and thirst after it, and it alone, and in due season thou wilt be fed. Be content, yea, glad to be preserved one of the babes in Christ, who are nourished by the milk of the word; and not one of the wise and prudent of this world, from whom the gospel of life and salvation is impenetrably hid. * *

"M. W. shines in her gift; our dear M. G. in her line, appears clothed with the spirit of the gospel; dear S. W.'s little effusions are very acceptable; R. G., I hope, well concerned. So we are getting on as well as we can, cautious and fearful, that so we may do no hurt.

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Lurgan, 19th of 4th Month, 1791.

* * "The good and gracious Master would favour and overshadow with his goodness, but vain, vain man, letting in another power to rule and sway, the rain from heaven falls unprofitably, as it were, on the troubled sea. However, in this we have satisfaction, that we have laboured plainly, honestly, tenderly, respectfully, and firmly, both publicly and privately, in order to bring into the unity and harmony, and to defeat the enemy's designs; but I fear little is effected, besides bearing our testimony against that which is wrong, and lifting up the standard of peace and concord. The Lord grant that the princes among the people may flock to it! Then I believe religion would flourish in this flourishing province. Thou mayst think, my dear love, from this description, that we have had a troublesome time of it. Meekness of wisdom was the word, and I hope it was in a good degree kept to; but though Moses was the meekest of men, he was also an undaunted warrior, and fought with ardour to get the enemy of the true seed cast out of the land. * *

The monthly meeting proved a favoured, owning, bowing season. * *

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"London, 12th of 5th Month, 1791.

* * "Last afternoon I attended another sitting of the Committee on the Queries. It is a very difficult job to get on with; there is so much critical accuracy about choice

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of words. I had to rub up my old Greek, and to give my interpretation of a word, in the original language of the New Testament. However, I felt the Power, which gathered us to be a people, near, as they were framing and fashioning patterns for the discipline of the church; and I bowed in humility and thankfulness to the Power, and travailed for a blessing, on the endeavours used for the preservation and strengthening of that which yet remains of glory and excellence amongst us. My cry also was, and is, for wisdom, that I may be instructed to behave myself aright in the house of God; and if I meddle at all, that it may be with clean hands and a wise heart. There is too much of the mere natural and superficial amongst us: there is want of going deeper down than many do. These things, the propagation and promotion of *vital Christianity*, are solemn, awful, and ponderous. Who is sufficient for them? Not the wise and learned in the wisdom of this world; not the rich and great in earthly possessions and rank; not the prudent and crafty in human policy; but those whose sufficiency is of and from the Lord Almighty, who have no confidence in that part of themselves which appertains to the flesh; who are as willing to be nothing as any thing, and who seek not themselves nor their own honour, but the honour which cometh from God only. And such, I am persuaded, are still mercifully preserved. * * * It is not in the power of our nature to acquire the knowledge of the truth; it is not in us to retain it in our experience; but we may very easily and readily, as in a moment, dissipate, squander it away, and lose it for ever. Yea, while we preach to others; while we handle the law and support the testimony, we may, without watchfulness and religious fear, become cast away from Divine favour, and die to any sensations of good, or capacity to do good. So let us fear as well as love, and be sure to take heed to ourselves first, then to the flock, the sheep, and lambs of

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Christ, if indeed we feel that we are appointed by the chief Shepherd to take any oversight thereof.

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER LEADBEATER.

1791.

* * * "I earnestly desire thy particular attention to thy mother. Bear with her infirmities, prevent her wishes, supply her wants, and lighten my absence to her in every respect, as much as is in thy power. Thou knowest the tenderness of the conjugal tie, and therefore thou wilt bear with me. I am persuaded that thy husband, who is the very model of good nature, humanity, and equanimity, will do his part of this business. * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"London, 18th of 5th Month, 1791.

* * * "Alterations, changes, dismemberments, &c. will fall out in families. May we each seek to get settled on that which is unchangeable; that in whatsoever proportion prosperity and adversity, things pleasant and disagreeable, be mingled in the cup of life, we may take it patiently and resignedly at the Lord's hand. So will it be a cup of blessings to us: we shall be strengthened with effectual help, and take courage to proceed to the end of our journey; where the great *plus ultra* will open upon us, where is no mixture, no sorrow, sighing, nor sickness, but joy everlasting upon the heads of the faithful, devoted, humble followers, of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. * * The

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close of the business last evening was the reading of the testimonies concerning our late beloved Sarah Robert Grubb. It was a very solemn time. Joseph Gurney Bevan read audibly and feelingly: Lewis Majolier stood by and looked on the writing as the other read, that he might the better collect the sense of a language in which he was but little versed. When J. G. B. had finished reading, L. M. asked permission to add his *verbal* testimony, which he did in a few sentences, very explicitly, properly, and feelingly. J. G. B. interpreted for him, sentence after sentence, as the other spoke, in a very clear, intelligible manner. The solemnity was great, the audience was very large; and, I believe, much pleased, and I hope edified by the whole transaction. For my part I was favoured to feel deeply, and to mourn, as I would wish, the church's loss. So much for that bright star, now set for ever to this lower world.

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Colebrook Dale, 4th of 6th Month, 1791.

"My dear Margaret,

"Believing it will be acceptable to thee to hear from me, I take up the pen at the house of our friend, Richard Reynolds, and have, through the continued kindness of merciful Providence, to inform thee that I am in good health, enjoying the converse of friends, whom I feel near to my heart, and to whose hearts I have abundant reason to think I am nearly united. Deborah Darby is indeed wanting, to consummate our social felicity; but I believe she is rightly employed about her Master's business, from which, neither the partiality of special friendship, nor

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maternal tenderness for her children, who are here during school vacation, have attraction sufficient to draw her. She and R. Y. are on their way from yearly meeting, visiting meetings, families, &c. They are not likely to arrive here during our stay. The yearly meeting was large, and, I hope, solemn. I hope also that it was renewedly felt and experienced, that, notwithstanding lamentable declension and dimness may be acknowledged, our religious society is still owned a chosen people, among whom the lively oracles are deposited, the gifts and graces of the spirit are bestowed, and the principles of pure and genuine Christianity are professed.

"Much time had been previously employed, and during intervals continued to be employed, about modelling new sets of queries: this furnished ample scope for argumentation, &c. For my part, through the most merciful and gracious condescension of the Lord Almighty, if in humble reverence I may so presume to say, I was satisfied, having divers times got down to my own hole in the rock, the secret place of the stairs assigned me. In that *domicilium*, that little mansion, I am not only content, but thankful to dwell. May but the hand of Omnipotence preserve me there! for even there the enemy will endeavour to make an entrance, and defile, and defeat, and destroy if he can; for that is the work of his cruelty and malice.

"I doubt not that our beloved E. Pim would communicate to thee some intelligence respecting the women's yearly meeting, &c. which her valuable sister G. would send her. This dear sister grows, I hope, in a capacity for religious service, and in the qualifications of a mother in Israel. May they both *grow together in the Lord:* so will their labours and their example be of singular use in their day, and infinite and glorious will be their recompence of reward. * *

"James Lecky, Anna Taverner, and I, set out from

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Worcester yesterday, and arrived in the evening at this highly-favoured spot, where we are most kindly and cordially entertained. I expect we shall stay for the meeting here to-morrow, and next day set off for Manchester, in order to pay a visit to dear Sarah Taylor, who, we understand, appears to be near launching out of time, into, no doubt, a blissful eternity. If we can receive her last blessing, it may, perhaps, help us on our way. * *

And now, my beloved Margaret, having given thee, historical, and all as it occurred, I must draw to a conclusion. Thou knowest that thou art exceedingly near and dear to me, and that thy poor father's chief joy is to see, to be sensible, that the children of the elect lady walk in the truth. Thou hast received an heavenly gift, let it be of whatever denomination it may. What matters the name of it? Attend upon it, prize it: it is the wisdom which is more precious than rubies. Exercise it when the great Master bids; when he cometh, calleth for thee, singles thee out, and puts thee forth in any little service. This is the way for the waters of this life's afflictions to be changed into the wine of the kingdom, and for the sorrows and perplexities of this world to be turned into heavenly joy. Nothing short of hearkening and obeying will do; but diligently hearkening, and faithfully obeying will do—will do *all* for thee, and more than thou canst ask or think.

"Farewell, my dearly beloved child. Remember me affectionately to thy worthy husband, sweet children, all relations and friends. I *must* particularize my dear E. P.

"R. S."

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R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Manchester, 7th of 6th Month, 1791.

* * "Sarah Taylor, to all appearance, is not likely to hold out many weeks. Good was evidently near her, and her door of utterance was open. She spoke feelingly of that ocean of love and life, which had been much the companion of her thoughts, and into which [I trust] her cloudless sun was about to set for ever.

"We spent a few days at Colebrook Dale to satisfaction, to which the company of R. R. did not a little contribute. * * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 23d of 8th Month, 1791.

* * "Who is exempt from trials and temptations? This life is the field of battle, and our most dangerous enemies are those of our own house. May the lamp of God, in the temple of our hearts, be kept still renewed and replenished with heavenly oil, that we may have a clear sight of what is doing within us, lest we should think otherwise of ourselves than we really are. Purity of heart is a main qualification for any service in the church of Christ; let us then use all diligence to obtain and retain this precious state. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.' They shall clearly discern the things which belong to his kingdom, and when they speak of them, it will be of what they have seen with their spiritual eyes, and what

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they have 'looked upon;' what has been brought by the Holy Spirit before their internal view, as an object of contemplation for themselves, and a subject which they are authorized to handle with clean hands, and with hallowed lips to communicate to others. Thy effusions in this line, my dear M. according to the best of my apprehension, are thus sanctified and commissioned. I have had near unity with them, and I would have thee, my dear child, to 'thank God,' that it has been his good pleasure thus to honour thee with his commands; and I wish thee also to 'take courage,' and proceed in the exercise of thy gift. Let thine heart keep the commandments of wisdom, and the law of the spirit; 'for length of days, and long life, and peace shall they add to thee.'

"Farewell, my dear child; I am thankful that I am thy affectionate father,

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 22d of 11th Month, 1791.

"My beloved Margaret,

"I was favoured with thy very acceptable letter, and join thee in gratitude for your getting so bravely home, and finding all so well. Numberless are the favours, known and unknown, which we are made partakers of, by the gracious interposition and ordering of our bountiful Creator and preserver. May they all conspire to raise in us desires to serve him according to his will, and may we manifest our gratitude by our filial obedience. * *

"I gratefully and greatly admire at my enjoying so con-

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siderable a share of health. Several of us attended our meetings for discipline at Carlow, the 18th inst. A. T. was with us, exercising her gift in public, and completing what remained of her visit to families there, which she has now performed throughout our monthly meeting. * * * Well, I do love to see business, the Lord's business, going forward, and the youth stepping into their lots, lively, experimental witnesses, of the power of an endless life; fresh, feeling, and full of good matter; loving their Master, and willing to give that proof of it which he peculiarly required, that is, to feed his lambs and his sheep. A little longer time and we are numbered to the silent grave, in common with all the generations which have been before us. Let us then, while we *are* here, seek for help to do our duty acceptably in the sight of our great judge, that so, at the awful day of decision, our spirits, disrobed of this mortal clothing, may hear the blessed sentence with unspeakable joy, and be mercifully separated to eternal felicity. * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Mountmellick, 29th of 11th Month, 1791.

* * * "I know not how it may continue with me, but I have hitherto felt more of the baptizing power of truth, I think, in this visit, than I have usually experienced on like occasions. I do not mean that I have found any increase of religious capacity to move in service, but my spirit has been engaged in deep travail for the sake of the cause of Christ. Indeed, this seems the business allotted me: a silent travail and wrestling of spirit for my own preservation, and for the return and restoration of our church,

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which seems in danger of going back into the wilderness, out of which she came, in former days, leaning upon her beloved. It is painful indeed to see that there are so few, in most places, qualified to answer the necessary calls and duties in religious society; but, I trust, a number of the rising generation, being sensible that these things are so, will be stirred up with a noble emulation and godly zeal, for the promotion of this blessed cause; in which they will have peace and the favour of their great Creator, which is far beyond all that this world can afford.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS SON.

"12th Month, 1791.

* * "It is marvellous how A. T. holds out in the depth of winter: encompassed with bodily weakness and infirmities, she struggles to get forward in the work pointed out to her, thinking it, no doubt, her crown and high honour to be employed in advocating the cause of Christianity; the most great and glorious which ever existed, or will ever exist among men. There is much difference of sentiment, much conflict and contention among men, respecting civil government; but few understand any thing about the government of Christ. His loyal subjects are very few: very few qualified to espouse and promote his government, though it is under his government alone that men can be safe, comfortable, and happy. I wish the youth in our religious society would lay these things to heart, in a general way, and that such of them as know and feel that those things are so, would not reason with flesh and blood, nor be disobedient to the heavenly vision, nor tarry behind the prophet, nor leave him; but go with

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him in his successive progress to Bethel, to Jericho, and to Jordan, where, having rent their own clothes in pieces, and occupied the mantle of the prophet, (the covering of the spirit, the gift, the qualification for service,) calling on the Lord God of Elijah, they would know a dividing of the waters, and a passing over into the several lots and portions of labour. This is honour indeed, and worthy of the pursuit of immortal spirits. * *

"The elders, the trained servants, the baptized, baptizing ministers, are gone and going off the stage: 'Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?'

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER SARAH, (then attending S. Neale.)

"Ballitore, 28th of 1st Month, 1792.

* * "We are much concerned that thou hast no more favourable account to give us of our beloved Samuel Neale, whose indisposition, and that of his dear wife, is deeply affecting to us. His particular, kind, and frequent remembrance of me, is grateful to my heart, which salutes him in affectionate sympathy, and earnestly desires that he may be supported every way under the pressure of the present pungent affliction, and that my dear friend, his faithful wife, may experience like effectual help. * *

"If we really, truly, and sincerely love the Master, let us willingly give that testimony of it, which he himself requires; let us be willing to feed his lambs and his sheep. There is nothing like obedience, it is even preferred to sacrifice, which itself is highly excellent. Obedience makes the Almighty our friend, as Abraham was called God's

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friend: obedience causes peace and tranquillity at home, without which life is insipid, unpleasant, if not miserable. So, my dear S. continue to be a good, obedient child, that I may continue to be a glad and grateful father.

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 16th of 2d Month, 1792.

* * "Whatever symptoms may attend our dear friend's bodily disorder, the symptoms which thou reportest attending his mind, are salutary and comfortable. It is a fine thing for him now, that in the time of his health and strength, and active life, he considered the poor, (the poor church,) and was willing to spend and be spent, that she might be enriched. 'Blessed,' says the royal Psalmist, 'is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble; the Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.' Present us all to him, as a family that loves and respects him sincerely, and wishes, if it be the Divine will, that he may yet be restored to his numerous friends, and fill up his measure of service on earth, that so he may obtain the full fruition of reward in heaven. He is seldom out of our waking thoughts, and the best desires which we are capable of, are fervent on his behalf, not doubting but that, whatever way Infinite Wisdom shall be pleased to dispose, it will be well, everlastingly well with him.

"R. S."

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FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 29th of 2d Month, 1792.

"My dear Child,

"Last evening we received the sorrowful tidings of the decisive event, for which thy last had prepared us. * * Present thy mother and me, and all ours, as one joint family, which unites in cordial love to, and affectionate sympathy with, our dear afflicted friend, Sarah Neale. I feel, I think, that she is supernaturally, effectually, supported in spirit, under this great trial, and that she can and does bless the hand which gave and takes away. See, my dear S. and learn confirmedly by her example, how happy a circumstance it is to have been enabled to take the yoke of Christ upon the neck in the early part life; how such, in time of trouble, and when old age and infirmities increase, have an asylum, a sanctuary to flee to, wherein they find protection and safety!

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 12th of 3d Month, 1792.

* * "I would not have thee be too concise, nor get a habit of concealing and suppressing, under an apprehension that thy communications are little worth. There is danger on that hand; though, as it grows out of the stock of humility, it may be said to be erring on the *right*

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side, not on the *left*. But I would have my beloved S. err on no side, but keep in the *middle* way, out of all extremes. 'I [wisdom] lead in the way of righteousness, in the *midst* of the paths of judgment.' * * It is a certain truth, that when any are engaged in the Lord's business, and see the pointings of his hand to particular service, much trouble would often be saved by simply making use of the opportunity put into the hand, and not deferring, procrastinating, and reasoning, till the vision fadeth, the understanding becomes clouded, and the strength and spiritual animation is gone. * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO JOHN THORP.

"Ballitore, 3d of 4th Month, 1792.

"It is now above a year since I was favoured with thy very acceptable and instructive letter; since which I have had the pleasure of personal conversation with thee. The sentiments expressed in thy letter, very much accord with my own, and confirm my experience, so that it seems needless to dwell upon them. Indeed, as in conversation, so in thus writing, the fresh, unpremeditated, rising subject, with the fresh life upon it, is only truly pleasing and edifying.

"By this time you have felt the loss of your honoured mother, beloved sister, and faithful friend, Sarah Taylor. Such a loss is not immediately known to its full extent; but I think these dispensations are peculiarly useful. They tend to make the surviving, rightly-concerned, gifted individuals, still more sensible of their weakness and insufficiency, being thus stripped of, as it were, collateral strength. They cause such, under this sense, more im-

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portunately to crave Divine help, trembling for the ark of the testimony, lest in *their* time, and whilst committed to *their* care, it should fall into the hands of the enemy. So dwelling here, a growth and increase are, in due time, witnessed: the little ones are made as Davids, and the Davids as the angel of the divine presence, ministering joy and gladness, and kindling those sacrifices which the Lord never did nor ever will despise. Of what great importance then is it, my beloved friend, that you, who have received gifts, should not only go down deep, but *dwell* deep; and, seeing the works and wonders of the Lord therein, bring up your stones of memorial from thence. A sound and living ministry is of unspeakable benefit to the church. The Almighty can do all things by his own immediate power; but it is his pleasure to make use of the instrumentality of men and women, in gathering and preserving the Christian church. Even the head of it desired his immediate followers to pray the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

I fear some too lightly estimate their own qualifications for religious services, and so fall back in their ranks, and weaken the general cause; and I fear that sometimes some of our elders, through an excess of caution, lest they should lift up too much, have been deficient in cherishing as they ought, and encouraging the 'babes and sucklings,' out of whose mouth is to be perfected praise. Therefore there is a necessity to wait to be endued with that wisdom which is profitable to direct, that so the understanding of the inward man may be properly illuminated; and to have the spiritual senses of the inward man quickened and exercised, that so the understanding may rightly judge of spiritual things.

"We too have suffered a general loss in the removal of our friend and brother, Samuel Neale. He was a man of a free, open, generous, candid spirit—of considerable pro-

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perty in the world. He was a visited and called instrument, a chosen vessel, a brand plucked out of the fire. He was a baptized and baptizing minister of the gospel, who spent and was spent in his Master's service. In the active part of his life he travelled on the evangelical errand, in all parts of the world where Friends were then settled. For some years last past he grew more infirm, and disabled by bodily disorders; but his love to the precious truth, and his desire to promote the saving knowledge of it was such, that he still struggled to get out, even among his distant friends. In the last excursion of the sort which he made, I was with him, and several other friends. It was in consequence of an appointment of our half-year's meeting, in which he was free to join. I did not expect his long surviving that service, and marked the patience, meekness, humility, and tenderness of his spirit, very much to my satisfaction. To my satisfaction, also, I was a witness to the stream of gospel life in which he ministered; that life in which at the first 'he spake trembling, and exalted himself in Israel;' that life in a remarkable manner accompanied his effusions through the course of his religious movements, for above forty years, and evidently crowned his religious labours. As he was an early and intimate friend of mine, I cannot but feelingly, though resignedly, mourn his loss.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER SARAH.

"Colebrook Dale, 12th of 5th Month, 1792.

* * "It looks as if we should stay here to-day and to-morrow, as none of our company, beside myself, have been here before; and this is a princely

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seat of hospitality, from which, and the curiosities of which, I am loath to hurry my companions away. * * * * I trust I am in degree sensible who it is that has turned the hearts of this people towards me, and who has also given me this sensibility and sensation of humble gratitude: and there is not a doubt, my dear S., but that if we be graciously preserved in the way of our duty, we shall have as much room as will be good for us in the hearts of our fellow-creatures. It is said, I think, that when a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his *enemies* to be at peace with him. How closely then must the sweet union of friends be rivetted in such a case! May our ways, my dear child, be so directed as more and more to please the Lord; then I am sure it will be happy for us; our increase will be unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. * * *

"Christ washed the feet of his disciples, previously to the command that they should wash the feet of one another. How remarkably *cleanness* was insisted on, and prescribed under the Jewish dispensation, and how absolutely necessary it is in these gospel times: it is necessary not only for beauty, but for strength: men of clean hands shall wax stronger and stronger. I have done what I could for you, my dear children, by way of worldly provision. If I had been more of one of this world's children, probably I should have done more for you in that way. I have done what I could; and I trust, if you look and lean aright, He that was mercifully pleased to care and provide for me, who (in my estimation) am more unworthy, will not fail to care and provide for you, every manner of way. Love, and aid, and cherish your dear mother, as you have done. * *

"Farewell, my precious S.; thy simplicity, faithfulness, and obedience, will, I hope, ever unite thee to my heart; which earnestly desires (and desires nothing more for you

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all than) that you may walk in the fear and wisdom of our great Creator.

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER LEADBEATER.

"London, 19th of 5th Month, 1792*.

Dies quem semper acerbum habebo.

* * * "The cordial welcome I received from my very kind friend ——, was particularly grateful to me, and the kindness and attention of his wife are renewedly imprinted on my heart. Their children too; their children are like Friends' children, love the society of Friends, and are settled in the habits in which they have been brought up; habits of humility, reverence for the laws and ordinances established among us, and love and respect for good men. They are brought up as wise children, who make glad fathers and mothers. * *

"When the mind is relieved and strengthened by supernatural aid, there is a submissive, patient acquiescence with the divine will; a belief that all that the Lord doth is right; and a humble, stedfast hope, that having been graciously pleased, in condescending goodness, to love his own (his called, visited, chosen, preserved children) in the early, inexperienced part of life; and having manifested his providential care, support, and supplies throughout their journey, he will love them to the end. So I hope thy dear mother, my precious help-mate, will not be suffered to sink below measure; but rely on, and feel underneath the everlasting arm of sure help. You will, I doubt

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* The day on which R. S. lost his first wife.

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not, continue to take all necessary, assiduous, affectionate care of her; and her prospect, whether she looks backward or forward, as to herself, seems, in my estimation, bright and clear; so to all-wise and all-merciful Providence, I commit and commend you all.

"R S."

R. S. TO HIS WIFE.

"Clonmel, 2d of 8th Month, 1792.

* * "My nearest natural connexions, present or absent, are the objects of my affectionate, tender, solicitous care, and best thoughts. I do not often make an excursion of this sort, to gratify paternal love; but I thought long to get some of the conversation as well as company of our beloved Margaret: the latter I had some time ago, but it was attended with very little of the former. I now and then am, at this season, much gratified with her lively effusions, and I never was so much pleased with her little flock before. * * * * *

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER LEADBEATER.

"Clonmel, 4th of 8th Month, 1792.

* * "It is very pleasing intelligence that thy mother is as well as usual. I hope she has by this time got her children with, and about her; and that they, with the hope of the next generation after you, her grandchildren, comfort and cherish her. I *was* uneasy at not

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hearing from some of you; but a little matter lays my storm *pulveris exigui jactu.* I continue, thank Providence, in good health; visiting my friends, chatting with Margaret, and pondering at times about my own state, and the state of others. * * Providence best knows what is best for us. He knows how to proportion what is called good and evil in this life, so as that the aggregate may be most to our advantage; as said the royal psalmist: 'How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the *sum* of them.'

"R. S."

R. S. TO HIS DAUGHTER G——.

"Ballitore, 9th of 8th Month, 1792.

* * "We should be pleased with intelligence concerning E. H. M. D. and E. P. a precious triumvirate gone on a high embassy. It is comfortable to find that the Great Master is thus sending messenger after messenger, on his holy errands; and that, notwithstanding our lapsed state, so many are found worthy to be honoured with a commission from the Great King, and willing to take as it were their lives in their hands, and run to and fro', that the saving knowledge of God and Christ may be increased in the earth. * *

"R. S."

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

"Ballitore, 20th of 8th Month, 1792.

* * * "I expect to go to Mountmellick to-morrow, to attend the monthly meeting there next day,

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and join in a visit to the provincial school. * * My precious Margaret, farewell!

"R. S."

Withdrawn from the busier scenes of life, while their sun descended brightly, Richard and Elizabeth Shackleton were solicitous, not only for the welfare of their own family, and the society to which they belonged, but for the race of mankind. When R. S. returned home after journeys taken from motives of duty, he returned with a thankful and cheerful heart, although sometimes in tears—tears springing from grateful sensations; for he enjoyed all his comforts of every kind; desiring nothing but what was allowable; and with pious resignation submitted to the bereavements, which his susceptible nature poignantly felt. He was indeed greatly favoured in domestic and social life; and his own company and conversation, while it increased the happiness of all around him, by that means also increased his own. He delighted and instructed his associates, because he was humble and condescending: the gentleman, the scholar, and the Christian were united in his character; and it was also marked with a simplicity which derogated nothing from the dignity that pure and undefiled religion confers. It was not in the circles of his distant friends or acquaintance, that this good man appeared to most advantage. It was by his own fire-side, that his sweetness of temper and his unaffected piety beamed brightest. His excellent wife was the constant object of his care and affection; his children also were his companions and his confidents. He showed them most of the letters which he wrote and received, and expected like openness from them. This gave him opportunity to correct their style and their hand-writing, &c.; and also to judge of the characters of their correspondents,

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and to encourage or discourage the friendships they seemed likely to form. He disapproved the manner that some young persons got into of handling religious subjects, with which their general conduct bespoke them to be little acquainted; for though a nursing father to what was good, he desired not to have this theme introduced without a deep sense of its awfulness. He often read to his female audience while they sat at work; and the subjects he chose were likely to 'form the manners, and to mend the heart.' Though religious writings, being preferred by him, were frequently introduced, they were not forced upon his young hearers: historical events and good moral poetry diversified this entertainment. He often called to see his neighbours; and his son's house was a second home, where he loved and was beloved, and where he found his first paternal feelings revived; while his little grandchildren flocked about him, 'and climbed his knees, the envied kiss to share.' Oh the cheerfulness of a pure mind! What innocent delight does it extract from every pleasant circumstance. Whether granted to the happy possessor of such a spirit or to others, it can appropriate all to its own enjoyment!

Though an almost imperceptible decay of memory, apparently accompanying a numbness in her right arm, increased upon Elizabeth Shackleton, these infirmities did not threaten her family with the sudden loss of *her;* and R. S. was favoured with uncommon health, which seemed to promise long life. They were universally beloved, and their love was universal; their years glided on in outward and inward peace, when the stroke of separation came; grievous to survivors, but doubtless sent in mercy, to call a faithful servant to meet his reward, and to take him from the evils to come.

Richard Shackleton returned from his last visit to his son and daughter Grubb, the 8th of 8th month, 1792.

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On the 21st he rose early, as he was accustomed to do, bathed, took leave of his family, and, accompanied by a servant, set out on horseback, for Mountmellick, to attend the committee for the provincial school. He left home apparently in usual health and spirits; but his daughter Chandlee, when he reached her house in Athy, six miles on the way, thought he did not seem quite well. However, he proceeded fourteen miles, to Mountmellick, to the house of his friend John Gatchell. Not apprehending that he was alarmingly ill, he sat one of the meetings; but being obliged to go out of the next, J. G. sent R. S.'s servant back to Ballitore on the 24th, to acquaint his family with his indisposition. His son, and daughter Sarah, immediately went to him: those who remained at home felt in full force the dread and anguish of suspense. It was a state they had not long to endure. It is painful to reflect upon these days; the messages backwards and forwards; the visits of his children, distressed for *both* parents; his poor, feeble wife overwhelmed with grief, and already on her journey to him, when all was terminated. This event caused a wide-spreading sorrow, wherever the dear deceased was known; but bitter indeed were the tears of his wife and children: his little grand-children too, young as they were, could most of them feel the pang of separation.

The Testimony of *Carlow Monthly Meeting*, respecting RICHARD SHACKLETON, though it alludes to circumstances in his life which have been narrated in the foregoing memoir, is here introduced, as containing some particulars of his last illness, and affording proof of the estimation in which he was held by his friends.

"Richard Shackleton was the only son of Abraham and

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Margaret Shackleton, respecting whom honourable mention hath been made in a testimony given forth by this meeting, and was born at Ballitore, the 28th of 7th month, (O. S.) 1726. Discovering early an inclination for learning, his father, who kept a boarding-school, had him instructed in the necessary qualifications for assisting and succeeding him in that useful occupation. An account of the visitations of Divine love mercifully extended to him, is found in his own writing, in a letter to a near friend, conveying much instruction, as follows: 'God Almighty visited my spirit with a sense of his goodness (precious above all things) in the very early part of my life, as early as I think I have any remembrance. He graciously renewed the same divine influence upon my soul, at various seasons of my childhood and more advanced youth. This sense and savour was every thing needful to me; it was knowledge enough, strength enough, joy and comfort in abundance: while in possession of this I wanted nothing; all things as to me were right. But temptations, suited to my cast and dispositions as a boy, were thrown in my way: puerile amusements, reading unprofitable, vain books were spread before me, and I was at times taken in the snare. When the heart gave its preference to these gratifications, the heavenly guest withdrew, and would not reside with such rivals. Yet good and gracious was the Lord, who, notwithstanding my unfaithfulness, would knock again for an entrance, and offer again to visit; and as I opened the door of my heart, (or rather He opened by his spirit,) he came in with the power of his judgments, and by his operative word burned up the chaffy, combustible nature; and this office being over, remained a flame of pure and heavenly joy. So I experienced him to be not only a jealous God, but a consuming fire. Thus, with these alternate visits and conflicts, I went on till I grew to a more advanced stage of youth; then the subtle nets of

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glossy, worldly wisdom, and the toils of youthful lusts, which war against the soul, proved too strong for me, and often carried my vessel back again down the stream of natural inclination. Arrived at manhood, and being about to settle in life, a high hand arrested me in my course, showed me my state of alienation, and the impossibility of my making a happy progress without the Divine blessing: so, in the sincerity of my heart, I obeyed the heavenly vision, became as a fool amongst my companions, and an alien amongst my intimate acquaintance. I sought retirement and the company of them who companied with Jesus. My sincerity was seen by the great Creator, and many were the baptisms I was baptized with in that day: it was also felt by his approved servants, and close was the fellowship cemented between many of their spirits and mine. Thus I have gone on to this day and hour, on the same search, hungry and thirsty still; not desiring any thing so much as the bread of life for myself and my dear friends, companions in the same travail.'

"Though possessed of superior natural abilities, and adorned with the gifts and graces of the spirit, he did not value himself thereon; but steadily advanced in his pilgrimage, bowed down under a grateful sense of the numerous favours received at the Divine hand. To his most intimate friends he frequently enforced the necessity of humility, as the only safe situation to keep continually in; dreading lest himself, or those he dearly loved, should by the stratagems of the enemy be drawn therefrom. His naturally cheerful disposition being in great measure regulated by best wisdom, he had much enjoyment of social and domestic comforts, with which he was remarkably blest. He was a kind, affectionate husband, a tender and careful father, a good neighbour, liberal and generous, especially exemplary in any thing relating to the wants of our society. But he was careful that his attention should

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not be too long occupied by any thing in this world. Those who had the opportunity of minutely observing his conduct, have often perceived him retiring from company, to seek in secret a renewal of spiritual strength. And we doubt not with like filial piety, in the midst of his outward employ (which he conducted with great reputation) he was engaged frequently to ask for Divine counsel and wisdom, particularly when deprived by death of his highly-valued father. He recommended to his friends a practice which he found beneficial to himself, devoting a part of each evening to religious retirement: the effects of such sacrifices were at times obvious in him, his countenance indicating that he had been in the best company.

"The prosperity of genuine Christianity was the object of his greatest solicitude: for this his spirit was exercised in deep mental travail: for this he was willing to be employed in any way consistent with Infinite Wisdom, in private or more public labour. He was particularly exemplary in a diligent attendance of meetings appointed for the good order of the society; and latterly, when at liberty from his outward occupation, he almost constantly attended the yearly meeting in London. He long filled with much propriety the weighty station of an elder. As his dwelling was near the spring of divine refreshment, he was often enabled to draw water for the benefit of others. He was a man of great benevolence, and the welfare of his fellow-creatures was very near his heart, frequently expressing his deep travail of spirit for the salvation of all mankind. For the departure from ancient purity, obvious in our religious society, he deeply mourned: on this account his tears were poured forth; yet he was consoled in hope, that through suffering and patience the church would come forth from her wilderness state, though he did not expect to see it in his day.

"He was often engaged in family-visits in divers parts,

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and was earnest that the flock might be led into fresh and living pastures, and feed securely beside the still waters. He used to say that he esteemed it his honour to be allowed to tread these courts, or to be employed on any little errand, as a boy or runner, about the house; because in this house there was abundance of soul-sustaining nourishment—there was bread enough and to spare; and when thus broken in spirit amongst his friends, and thus pouring forth the warm expression of his gratitude, he would speak largely of the beauty of the house of God, how it is all glorious, how its pavement shone with holiness, and how clean ought to be the feet which trod therein. He was well gifted for this private labour in families, which he believed our Lord particularly intended, when he enjoined the disciples to wash one another's feet; being an unceasing obligation on all their successors in the truth, to do even as He had done to them, that by this exercise of discipline the members might be preserved clean from spot or blemish. Being endued with the spirit of discernment respecting ministry, (which he earnestly desired might flow pure and unmixed from the sacred spring,) he was well qualified to be a nursing father to those in the station of minister who wanted a hand of help; and such he encouraged to an humble, simple, faithful, diligent occupying with the divine gift.

"In a letter a few months before his decease he wrote: 'The faithfulness and dedication of some of you has been cause of joy, and a kind of triumph to me; so that, according to my measure, I can join a remnant in adopting the apostle's expression: 'For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? for ye are our glory and joy.' To the Lord alone be the praise of his own works, but 'let his own works praise him.' He was fervent in intercession for his beloved offspring, that they

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might be preserved near the source of all our blessings; and as they dwelt humbly before Him, who is Lord of earth as well as heaven, he had no doubt but a sufficiency of the good things of this life would be granted them, with a 'treasure in the heavens that faileth not.' To a particular friend, about three weeks before his decease, he wrote, 'I trust that we know something of the vicissitude of day and night, and the revolution of the Lord's year in our spirits; and that He will be mercifully pleased to deliver us from evil, and preserve us to the end, and at the end.'

"Being on a visit to our provincial school at Mountmellick, he was taken ill at the house of our friend John Gatchell. Under the heavy pressure of his disorder, which was termed a low fever, he said he did not know how the dispensation would terminate; if it was come for the final separation he feared he was not prepared, but he believed the baptism of sickness was necessary for purification. After much depression of mind, he was encouraged in the recollection of Isaiah, xl. chapter, 1st and 2d verses: 'Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.' He discovered no impatience, lay calm, and spoke at times rather cheerfully to those about him. He once said, 'I think it a favour that I feel a sympathy with the seed in suffering.' He spoke of what a gloomy day it was in Jerusalem when our Lord was about to be offered up, how afflicted the women were who followed him, and how he exhorted them: 'Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.' Also how the high professors arrayed him in a purple robe, and mocked him; and that now the same spirit was setting up a mockery of Christianity, while

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they were crucifying him afresh. He said that the present times required to send for the mourning women, such as were skilful in lamentation. At another time, appearing under great languor and depression, he said, 'My friends, my friends, pray for me, that my patience fail not.' To some taking leave of him, he recommended faithfulness and dedication to religious duties, which would draw down the blessing on them, and on their families: he said that what we profess is the truth, which our worthy predecessors were so eminently called to support, laying the axe to the root of the corrupt tree. He spoke of a sacrifice which David made that was accepted, even a broken and a contrite spirit; and he hoped that *his* also was accepted.

Early in the morning of the 28th of 8th month, being the eighth day of his illness, he passed through sore conflict. For about an hour he was favoured with calmness; frequently embraced a beloved child who attended him; and about seven o'clock the same morning, quietly departed this life, in the 66th year of his age. His remains, being conveyed to Ballitore, were interred the 30th of the month, after a solemn meeting.

"Having been uncommonly blessed with health, and his mental faculties continuing undiminished, to his beloved wife, numerous friends and connexions, his removal was an unexpected stroke. We doubt not his purified spirit is now in the enjoyment of an everlasting crown. May we profitably feel our loss! 'Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he shall make him ruler over all his goods.'"

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The testimony of his friend Edmund Burke, who also could justly appreciate the character of him whom he had loved so long and so sincerely, ought, in justice to their mutual friendship, to find a place here.

LETTER FROM EDMUND BURKE TO MARY LEADBEATER.

"Beaconsfield, September 8th, 1792.

"MY DEAR MADAM,

"After some tears on the truly-melancholy event, of which your letter gives me the first account, I sit down to thank you for your very kind attention to me, in a season of so much, and so just sorrow to yourself. Certainly my loss is not so great as yours, who constantly enjoyed the advantage and satisfaction of the society of such a companion, such a friend, such an instructor, and such an example: yet I am penetrated with a very sincere affliction, for my loss is great too. I am declining, or rather declined in life; and the loss of friends, at no time very reparable, is impossible to be repaired at all in this advanced period. His annual visit had been for some years a source of satisfaction that I cannot easily express. He had kept up the fervour of youthful affections; and his vivacity and cheerfulness, which made his early days so pleasant, continued the same to the last: the strictness of his virtue and piety had nothing in it of morose or austere; and surely no life was better, and, it is a comfort to us to add, more happily spent than his. I knew him from the boyish days in which we began to love each other: his talents were great, strong, and various; there was no art or science to which they were not sufficient in the contemplative life, nor any employment that they would not more than adequately fill in the active. Though

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his talents were not without that ambition which generally accompanies great natural endowments, it was kept under by great wisdom and temperance of mind; and though it was his opinion that the exercise of virtue was more easy, its nature more pure, and its means more certain in the walk he chose, yet in *that*, the activity and energy which formed the character of his mind, were very visible. Apparently in a private path of life, his spirit was public. You know how tender a father he was to children worthy of him; yet he extended himself more widely, and devoted a great part of his time to the good of that society, of no mean extent, of which the order of Divine Providence had made him a member. With a heart far from excluding others, he was entirely devoted to the benefit of that society, and had a zeal very uncommon for every thing which regarded its welfare and reputation; and when he retired, which he did wisely, and in time, from the worthy occupation which he filled in a superior manner, his time and thoughts were given to that object. He sanctified his family benevolence, his benevolence to his society, and to his friends, and to mankind, with that reverence in all things to the Supreme Being, without which the best dispositions, and the best teaching, will make virtue, if it can be at all attained, uncertain, poor, hard, dry, cold, and comfortless. Indeed we have had a loss. I console myself under it, by going over the virtues of my old friend, of which, I believe, I am one of the earliest witnesses, and the most warm admirers and lovers.

"Believe me, this whole family, who have adopted my interest in my excellent departed friend, are deeply touched with our common loss, and sympathize with you most sincerely. * * * I hope you will assure my dear friend, Mrs. Shackleton, the worthy wife of my late invaluable friend, that we sympathize cordially in all she feels; and join our entreaties to yours, that she will preserve to

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you as much as possible of the friend and parent you have lost.

"E. B."

The following letter is from Thomas Wilkinson.

"Yanwath, 28th of 10th Month, 1792.

"DEAR FRIEND,

"It is certainly more congenial to my disposition to visit the abodes of sorrow, than the mansions of joy and festivity; not that I am insensible to the comfort and happiness of those I love, but if my friends are more near to me at one period than another, it is when they are under the pressure of affliction. Though I have deferred paying my visit of sympathy and affection in this way till now, it was not because you were not daily in my remembrance; but sorrow is not at all times communicative, and I reflected that numerous would be the tributes of condolence on the late mournful occasion: mine might, perhaps, have been spared. Of your loss I make estimation from what I have felt myself. I have but twice in my life had the satisfaction of any personal intercourse with the dear deceased, and these at six years' distance from each other; yet the lively impression of Richard Shackleton, left thereby on my mind, is equalled by few indeed. Few indeed possessed the powers of engaging and improving those around them, by their society, like him. His pleasant and communicative disposition opened his way with all ranks. It sometimes happens that the great and the good are encircled by a forbidding gravity, (I mean, something distinct from religious authority,) but in him the love of the Almighty was shown in kindness and goodwill to those around him: this gave him place wherever he came, and his mind seemed equally fit for the vigour of reasoning,

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the capacious range of science, or to comfort and bring forward the hindmost of his brethren and sisters. To me he was kind indeed, and there is a sweetness accompanies his memory in my mind, hard to be described, which I believe will be the general feeling where he was known; so that his loss will be as extensive as his acquaintance, and lasting as the present generation. To you, dear friends, it must be peculiarly trying: you who felt his paternal care; you who felt the cheering influence of his daily conversation, and saw a thousand little acts of solicitude and kindness, unknown to the eyes of his more distant friends.

I need not, I cannot enlarge. Farewell: if the cloud of mourning o'ershadows your valley, extend your prospect to that bright region, where your father, companion, and friend is, I believe, gathered to the just of all generations; and where a few more days, a few more tears, and a few more struggles, and, if we follow the light that guided him, we shall rejoin his released spirit, and be united to the redeemed and happy for ever and ever! * *

"T. W."

Notwithstanding the declining state of Elizabeth Shackleton's faculties, she felt, with all its weight and poignancy, the overwhelming blow which deprived her of such a husband; and this heavy affliction seemed to accelerate the decay of her intellectual powers. Yet she got out to general meetings, as well as to her own, for a few years, and could enjoy the pleasure of entertaining her friends. It was in her house that the valuable life of Job Scott was closed, and she accounted herself favoured in witnessing his happy and triumphant conclusion.

Whilst the helplessness of second childhood, accompanied by the innocence of childhood, increased upon her, it might be accounted a mercy to Elizabeth Shackleton, that the cloud which overspread her mind, once so susceptible,

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prevented her from a painful participation in the distresses of her native country. In the memorable year, 1798, the Rebellion raged violently at Ballitore; the following winter the quiet of the inhabitants was often broken in upon by robbers in the dead of night; yet those who took up arms in rebellion, those who came armed to inflict punishment upon them, however furious in their conduct and expressions to others, uniformly treated her with respect, and often with tenderness. She did not appear to be terrified, as others were, in those times of dismay; yet it is likely she felt the effects of the confusion and alarm which surrounded her, and that her mental energies were additionally weakened thereby, though she continued sensible of the affectionate attention manifested towards her by her friends.

Her bodily powers failed by degrees, and, gradually withdrawing from life, and unconscious of the approach of death, she gently breathed her last, the 23d of 3d month, 1804, in the 78th year of her age.

Thus lived and thus died, Richard and Elizabeth Shackleton, adorning by their conduct the doctrine they professed; and prepared, we trust, through the power of redeeming love, for "an inheritance among all them that are sanctified."

THE END.

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